IND.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
THE Fantastic FOUR
MC
12 MAR.
AT LAST!!! the FANTASTIC FOUR meet THE HULK!
THE HULK IS NEARBY! I CAN FEEL IT!
ANOTHER SECOND AND I'LL DESTROY THEM ALL!!
A BOOK-LENGTH EPIC!! NEED WE SAY MORE?!!!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS, IN VIVID DETAIL, ALL THE SPELLBINDING EVENTS THAT WILL LEAD UP TO THE EXPLOSIVE MOMENT WHEN THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** WILL MEET...

AS A WELL-DRESSED, SOPHISTICATED AUDIENCE LEAVES THE CITY SYMPHONY AUDITORIUM, NONE SUSPECT THE FAMOUS FIGURE WHO IS IN THEIR MIDST!

OH, BEN... WASN'T BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SYMPHONY YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

IF YOU SAY SO, KID! PERSONALLY, I GET **MY** KICKS FROM LOW-DOWN NEW ORLEANS JAZZ!

SCRIPT..... STAN LEE
ART..... JACK KIRBY
INKING..... DICK AYERS
LETTERING... ART SIMEK

X-101

LOOK, MY DEAR! A COMPANY OF INFANTRYMEN! HERE IN NEW YORK!

HEY!

LOOK OUT WHO YOU'RE POKIN'!

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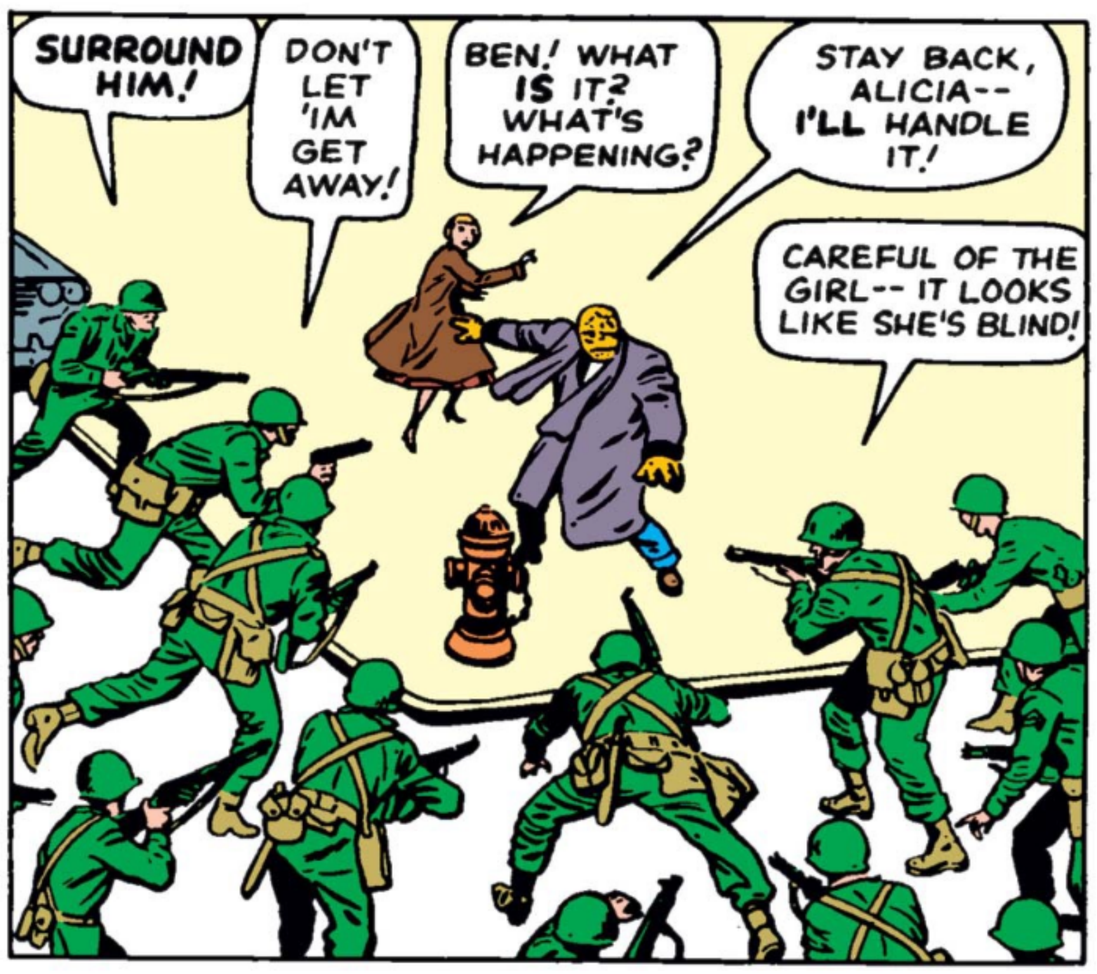
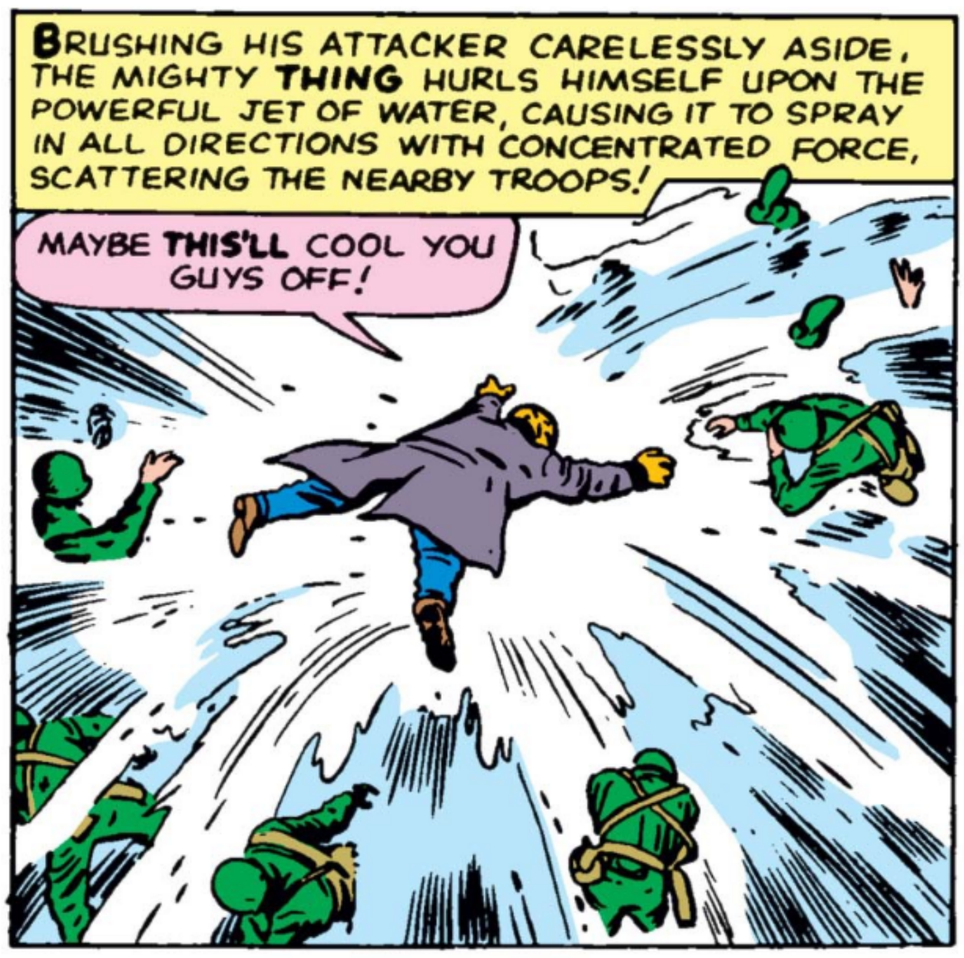
DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME, MY GOOD MAN! I WAS MERELY TRYING TO SEE THOSE TROOPS, AND--ULP! A--A MONSTER!
OH, NOW YOU'RE INSULTIN' ME ALSO, HUH?

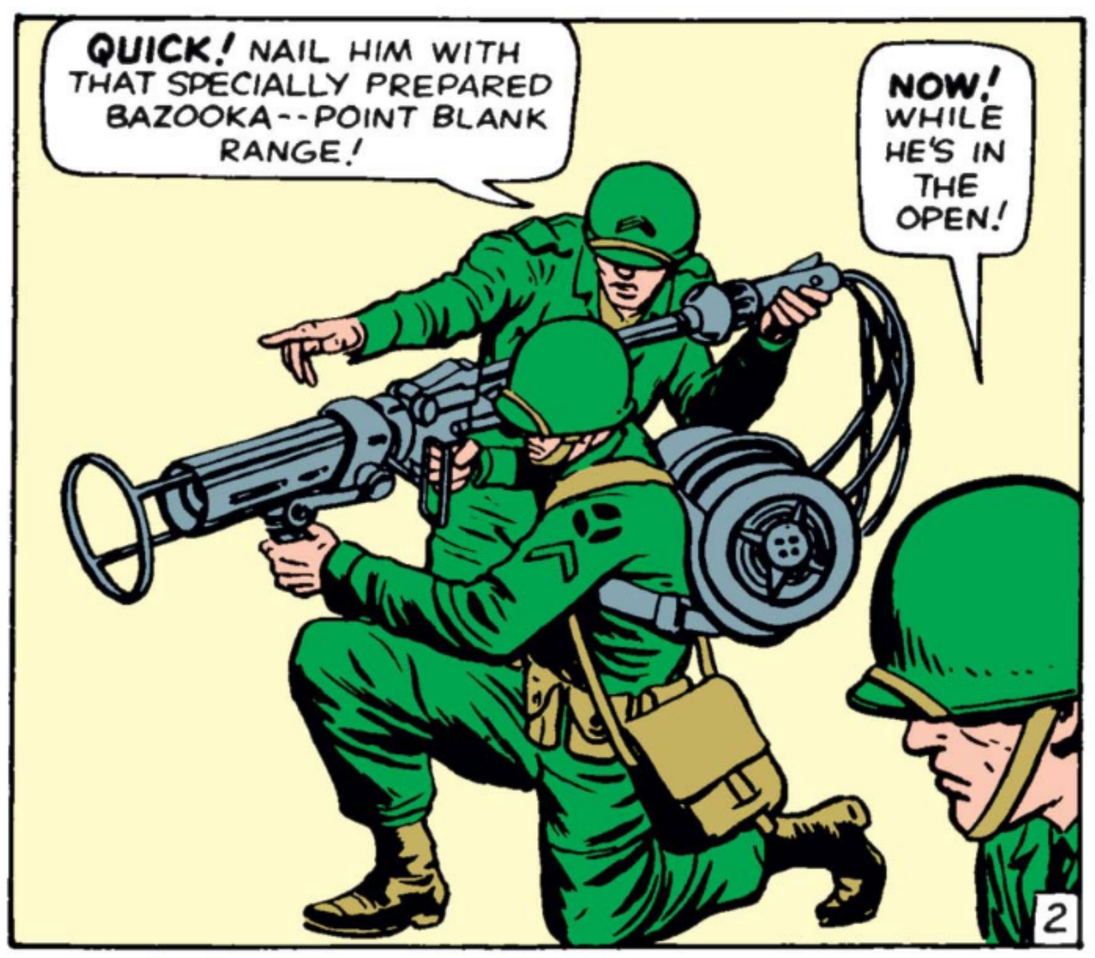
BEN--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
HERE! YA WANNA SEE THE SOLDIER BOYS?? TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

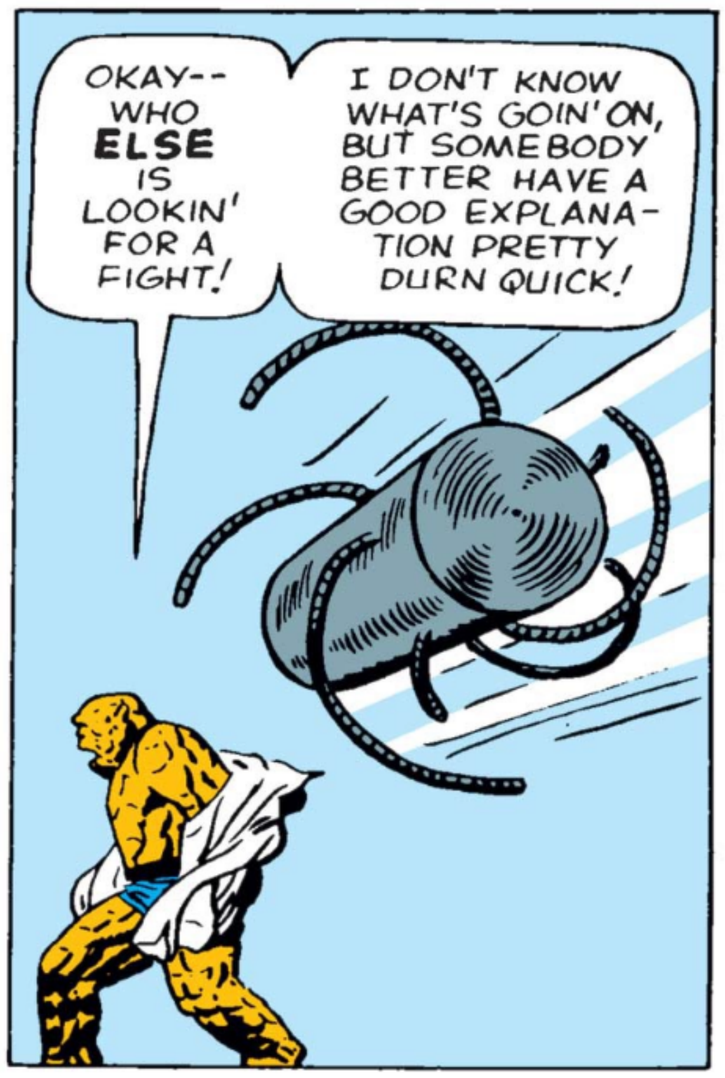
DID YOU SEE THAT CHARACTER LIFT THAT GUY UP LIKE HE WAS A FEATHER ??
AND HE PUT HIM DOWN AGAIN GENTLE AS A LAMB!
HEY! HE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO BE THE ONE WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR!


SURROUND HIM!
DON'T LET 'IM GET AWAY!
BEN! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
STAY BACK, ALICIA-- I'LL HANDLE IT!
CAREFUL OF THE GIRL-- IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BLIND!

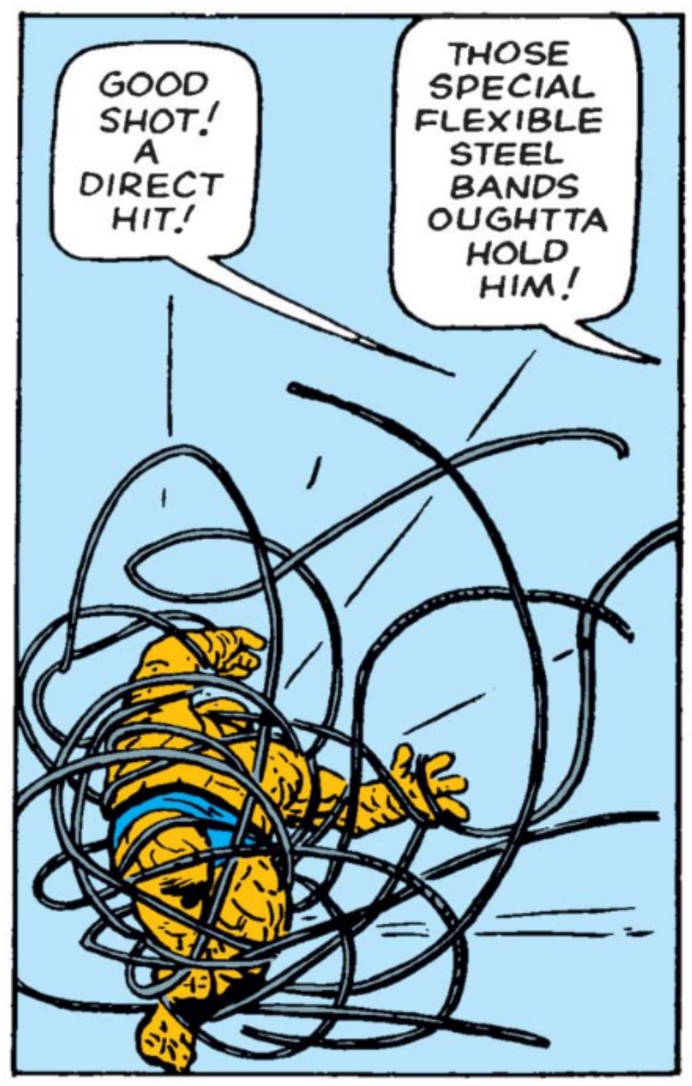
HOLY HANNAH! HE TORE THAT HYDRANT CLEAN OUT OF THE STREET!
ARE YOU GUYS ALL NUTS??!
LET'S RUSH 'IM!


BRUSHING HIS ATTACKER CARELESSLY ASIDE, THE MIGHTY THING HURLS HIMSELF UPON THE POWERFUL JET OF WATER, CAUSING IT TO SPRAY IN ALL DIRECTIONS WITH CONCENTRATED FORCE, SCATTERING THE NEARBY TROOPS!
MAYBE THIS'LL COOL YOU GUYS OFF!

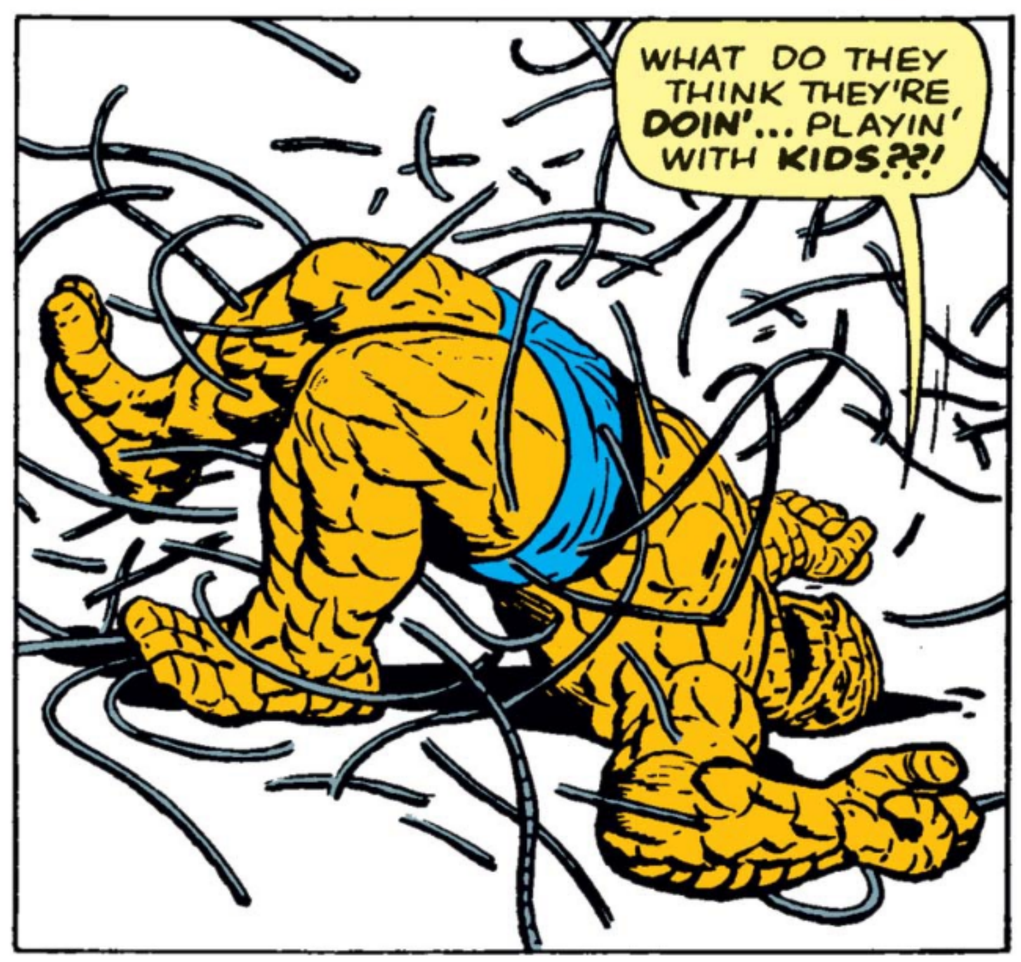

QUICK! NAIL HIM WITH THAT SPECIALLY PREPARED BAZOOKA--POINT BLANK RANGE!
NOW! WHILE HE'S IN THE OPEN!


OKAY-- WHO **ELSE** IS LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON, BUT SOMEBODY BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLANATION PRETTY DURN QUICK!

HOLY COW! WHAT'S **THAT** ??!

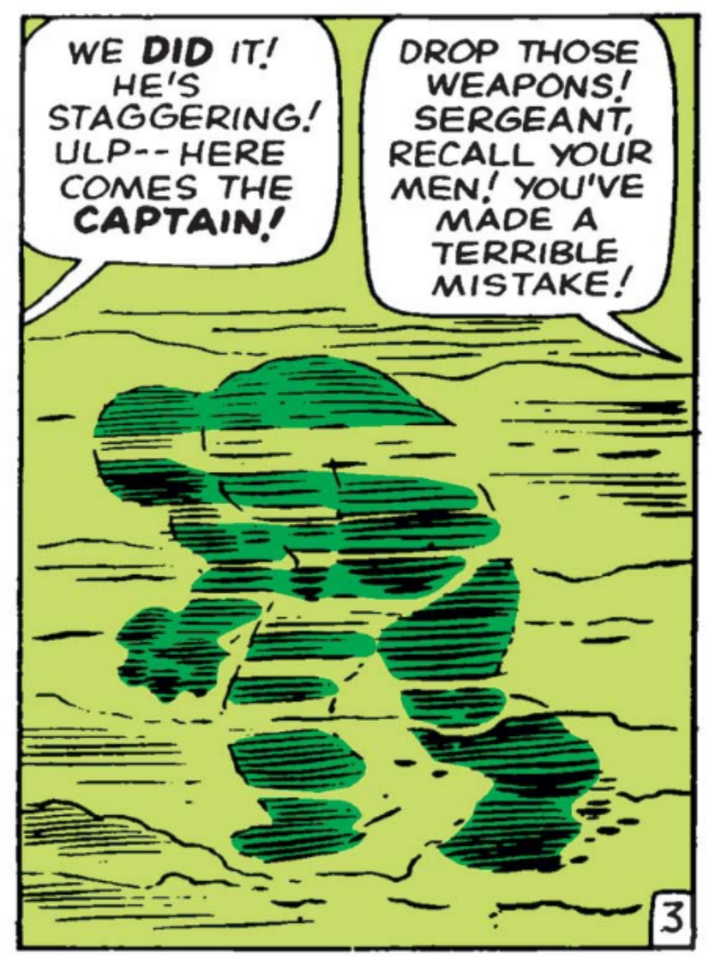

GOOD SHOT! A DIRECT HIT!
THOSE SPECIAL FLEXIBLE STEEL BANDS OUGHTTA HOLD HIM!

THEY GOT ME ALL HOG-TIED!
WELL, I AIN'T GONNA **STAY** THIS WAY!


WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE **DOIN'**... PLAYIN' WITH **KIDS**??!

ALL RIGHT, WISE GUYS, THE FUN'S **OVER**! NOW IT'S **MY** TURN TO START GETTIN' ROUGH!

HE BROKE THE STEEL BANDS--HE'S **ATTACKING!**
STEADY--THESE GAS SHELLS WILL STOP ANYTHING THAT LIVES!


WE **DID** IT! HE'S STAGGERING! ULP-- HERE COMES THE **CAPTAIN!**
DROP THOSE WEAPONS! SERGEANT, RECALL YOUR MEN! YOU'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!

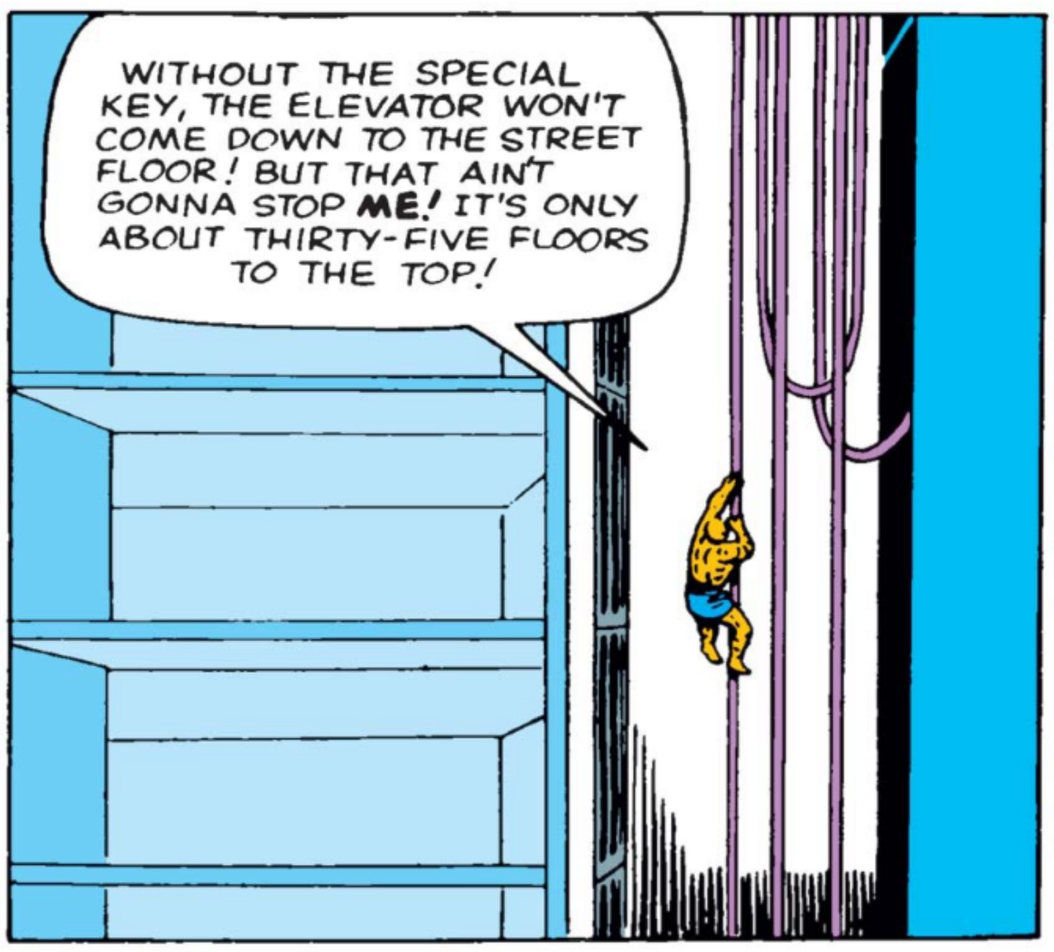
MINUTES LATER...
BEN! OH, BEN, MY DARLING --ARE YOU ALL RIGHT??
HUH? OH SURE --SURE! IT TAKES MORE THAN A WHIFF OF GAS TO PUT THE THING OUT FOR THE COUNT!
MY APOLOGIES, SIR! MY MEN MISTOOK YOU FOR THE HULK! THERE IS A NATIONAL ALARM OUT FOR HIM!

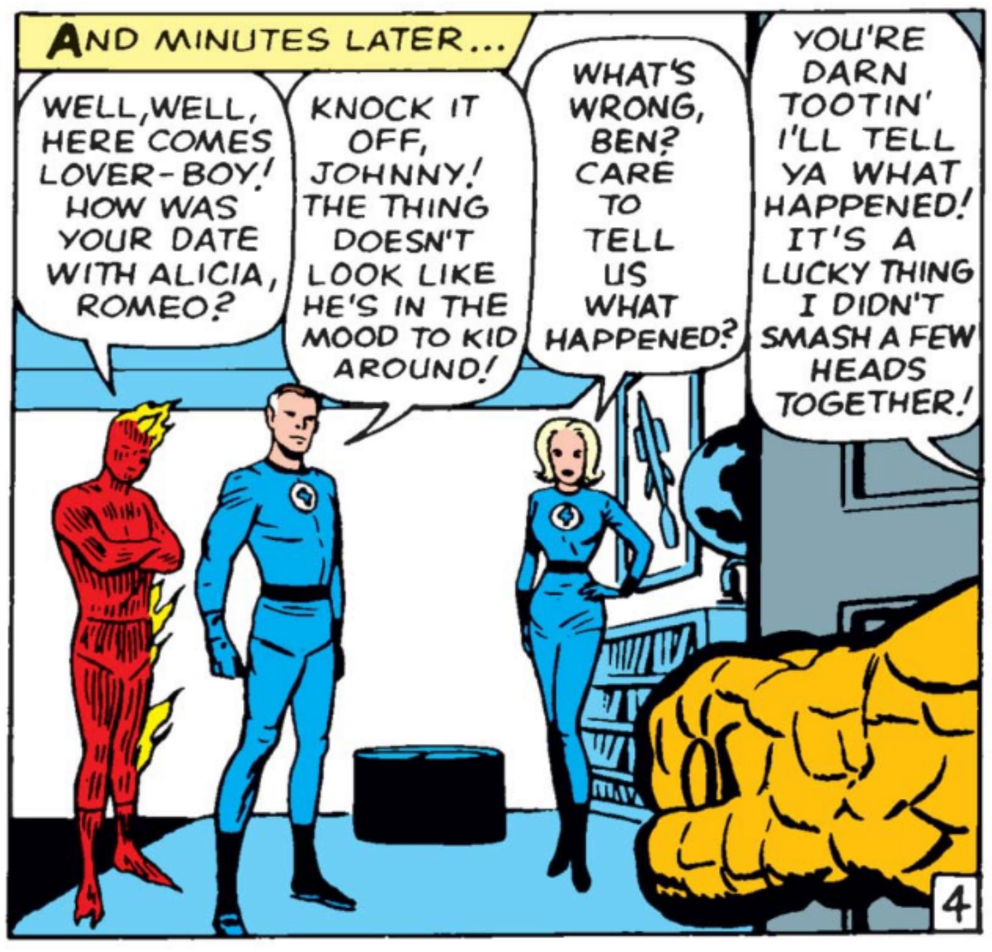
YOU TRYIN' TO TELL ME YOU THOUGHT THAT BRAINLESS LUMP OF LARD WAS ME??!! OF ALL THE CRUMMY...!
BEN, DON'T! HE'S TRYING TO APOLOGIZE! PLEASE, BEN!
C-CAN YOU CONTROL HIM, MA'AM? BETTER STAY BACK, MEN, TILL HE COOLS OFF!

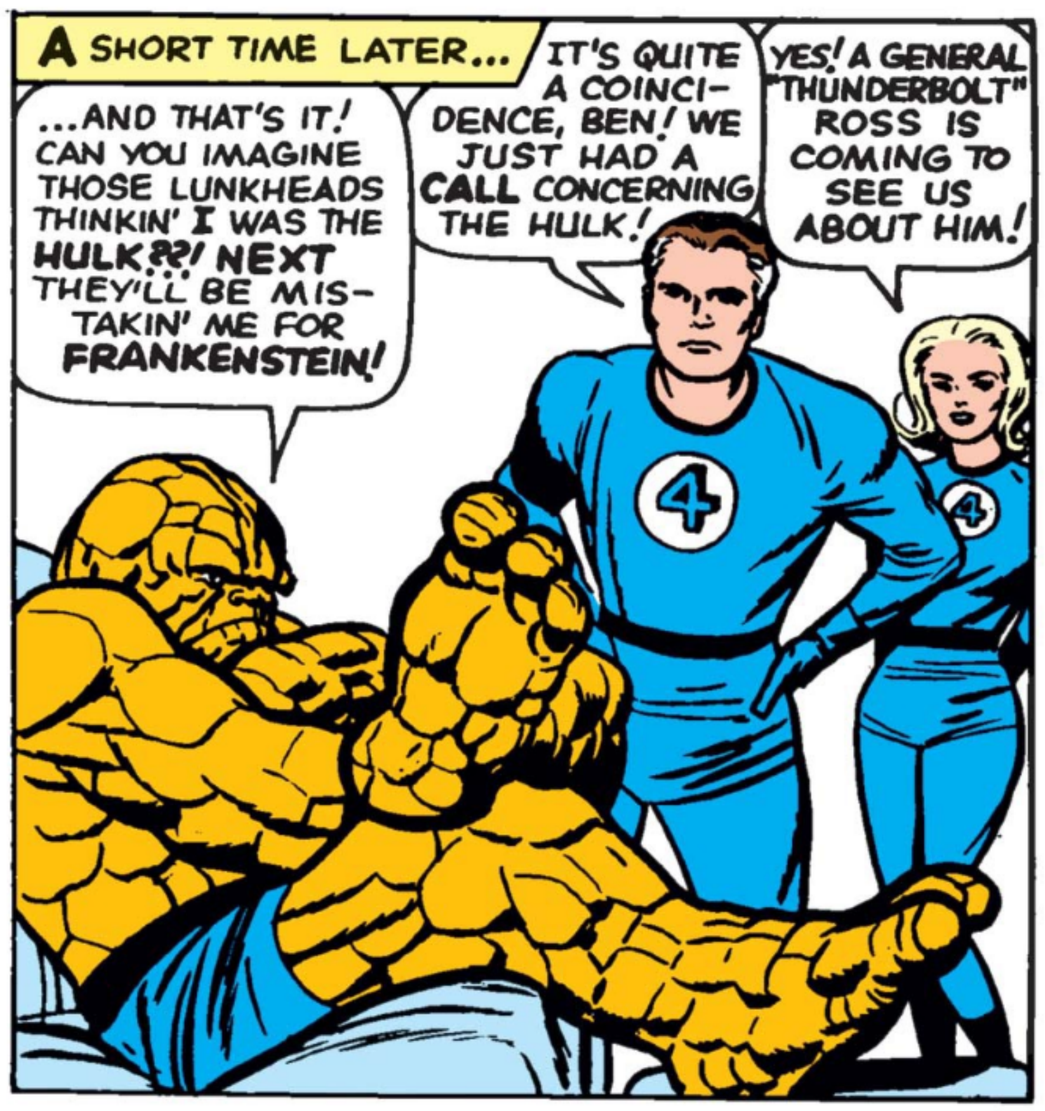
AS IF BEIN' THE THING AIN'T BAD ENOUGH, NOW THOSE LAMEBRAINS ARE MISTAKIN' ME FOR THE HULK! BAH! C'MON, KID, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!

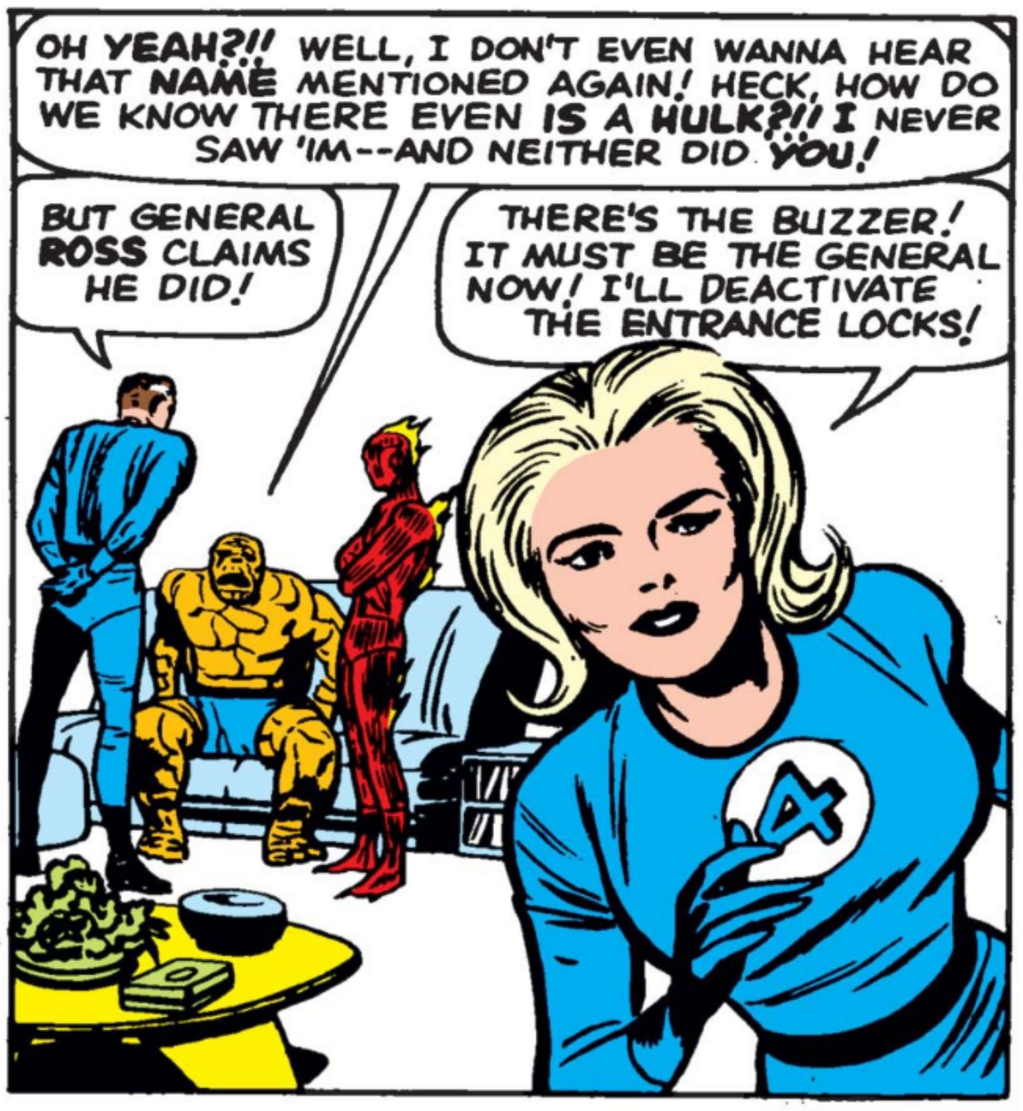
AFTER LEAVING ALICIA, AND REACHING THE LOBBY OF THE BAXTER BUILDING....
BLAST THE LUCK! I MUSTA DROPPED THE ELECTRONIC THINGAMAJIG THAT OPENS OUR SPECIAL ELEVATOR DOOR!

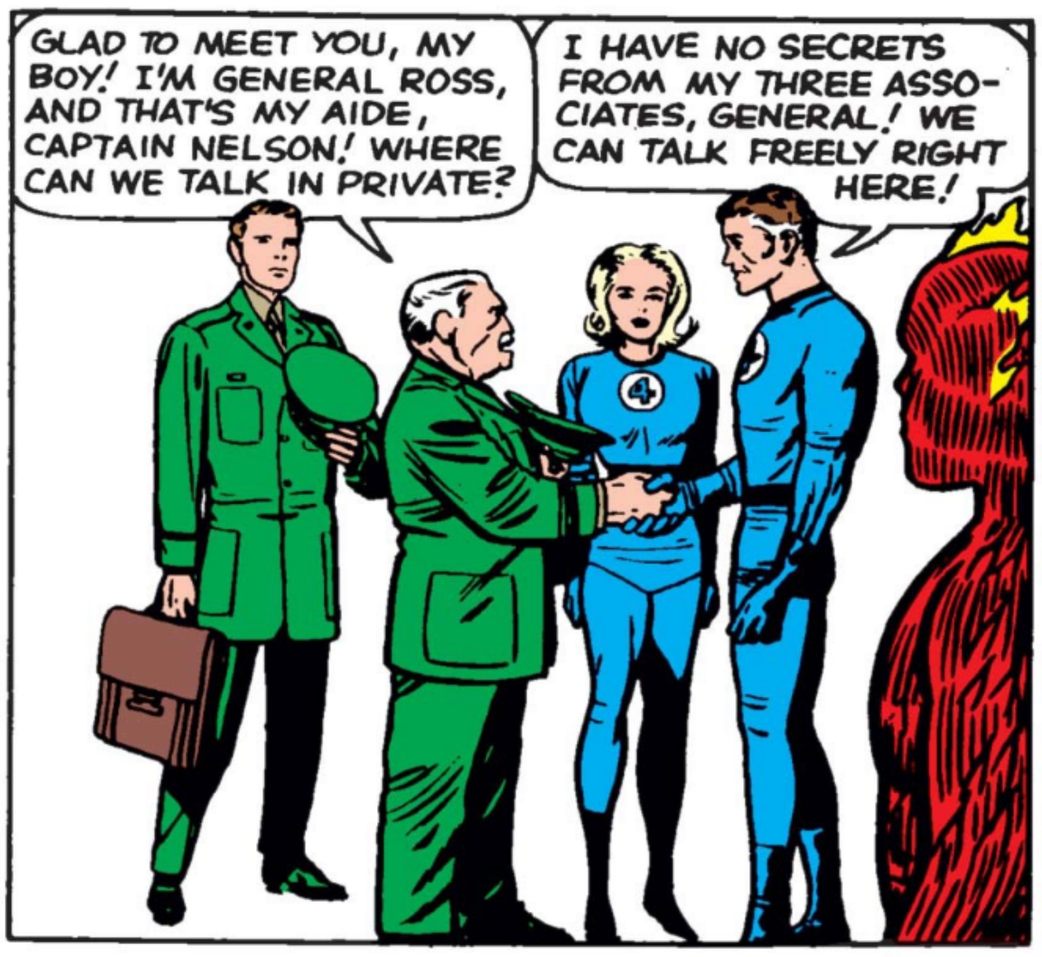
WELL, I AIN'T IN THE MOOD TO GO BACK AND LOOK FOR IT!
WE BEEN NEEDIN' A NEW DOOR, ANYWAY!

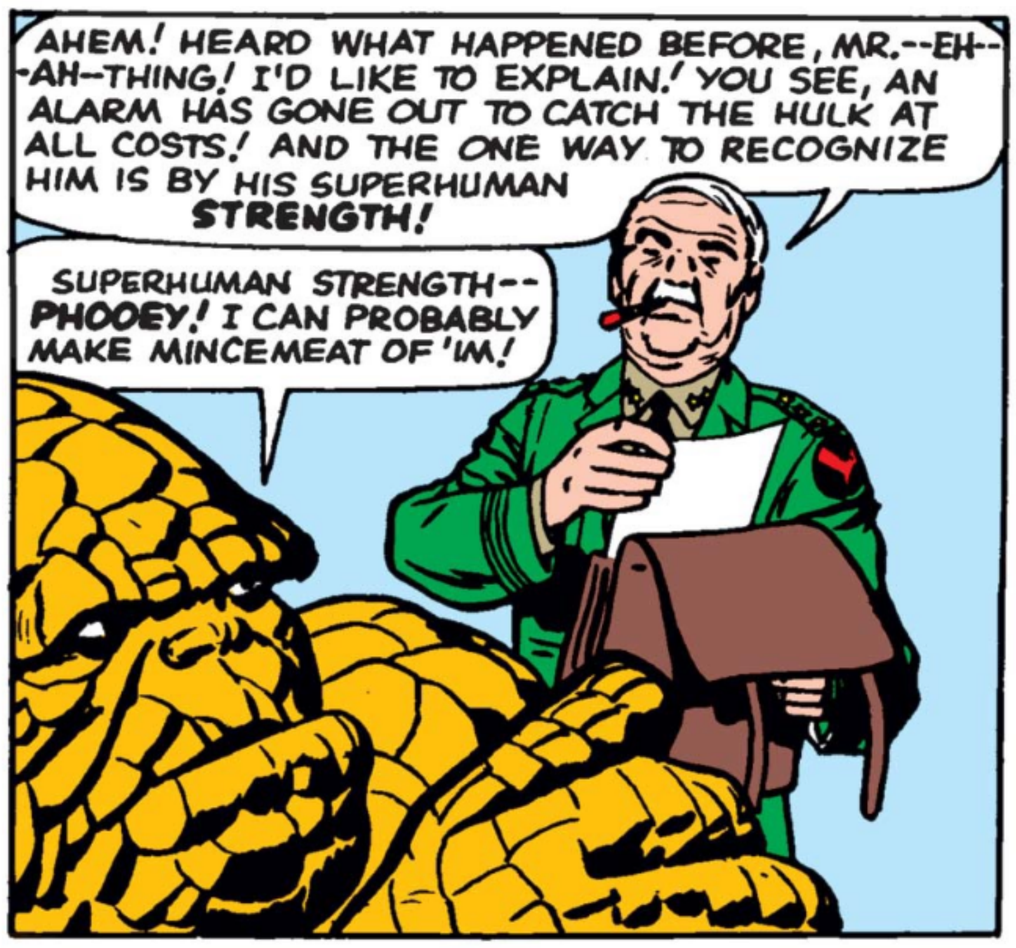

WITHOUT THE SPECIAL KEY, THE ELEVATOR WON'T COME DOWN TO THE STREET FLOOR! BUT THAT AIN'T GONNA STOP ME! IT'S ONLY ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE FLOORS TO THE TOP!


AND MINUTES LATER...
WELL, WELL, HERE COMES LOVER-BOY! HOW WAS YOUR DATE WITH ALICIA, ROMEO?
KNOCK IT OFF, JOHNNY! THE THING DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S IN THE MOOD TO KID AROUND!
WHAT'S WRONG, BEN? CARE TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU'RE DARN TOOTIN' I'LL TELL YA WHAT HAPPENED! IT'S A LUCKY THING I DIDN'T SMASH A FEW HEADS TOGETHER!


A SHORT TIME LATER...
...AND THAT'S IT! CAN YOU IMAGINE THOSE LUNKHEADS THINKIN' I WAS THE HULK?? NEXT THEY'LL BE MISTAKIN' ME FOR FRANKENSTEIN!
IT'S QUITE A COINCIDENCE, BEN! WE JUST HAD A CALL CONCERNING THE HULK!
YES! A GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS IS COMING TO SEE US ABOUT HIM!


OH YEAH?! WELL, I DON'T EVEN WANNA HEAR THAT NAME MENTIONED AGAIN! HECK, HOW DO WE KNOW THERE EVEN IS A HULK?! I NEVER SAW 'IM--AND NEITHER DID YOU!
BUT GENERAL ROSS CLAIMS HE DID!
THERE'S THE BUZZER! IT MUST BE THE GENERAL NOW! I'LL DEACTIVATE THE ENTRANCE LOCKS!


GLAD TO MEET YOU, MY BOY! I'M GENERAL ROSS, AND THAT'S MY AIDE, CAPTAIN NELSON! WHERE CAN WE TALK IN PRIVATE?
I HAVE NO SECRETS FROM MY THREE ASSOCIATES, GENERAL! WE CAN TALK FREELY RIGHT HERE!


AHEM! HEARD WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, MR.--EH--AH--THING! I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN! YOU SEE, AN ALARM HAS GONE OUT TO CATCH THE HULK AT ALL COSTS! AND THE ONE WAY TO RECOGNIZE HIM IS BY HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH!
SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH--PHOOEY! I CAN PROBABLY MAKE MINCEMEAT OF 'IM!

YOU MAY GET YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE THOSE WORDS! HERE IS A PICTURE OF THE HULK!
WELL, HE SURE AIN'T NO BEAUTY CONTEST WINNER!

WHAT MAKES HIM NUMBER ONE ON YOUR HATE PARADE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
OUR MISSILE INSTALLATIONS IN THE DESERT HAVE BEEN SABOTAGED...AND HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT!
AND WHERE DO WE COME IN?

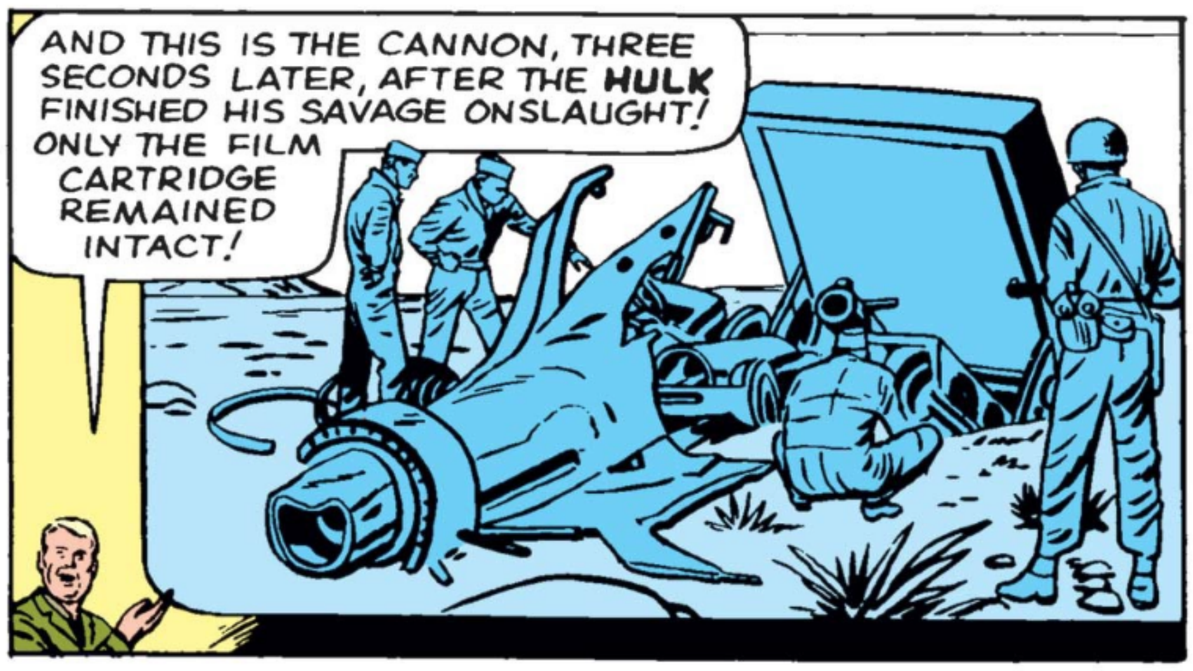
I'VE COME TO ENLIST YOUR HELP! I WANT YOU TO FIND AND DESTROY THE HULK!

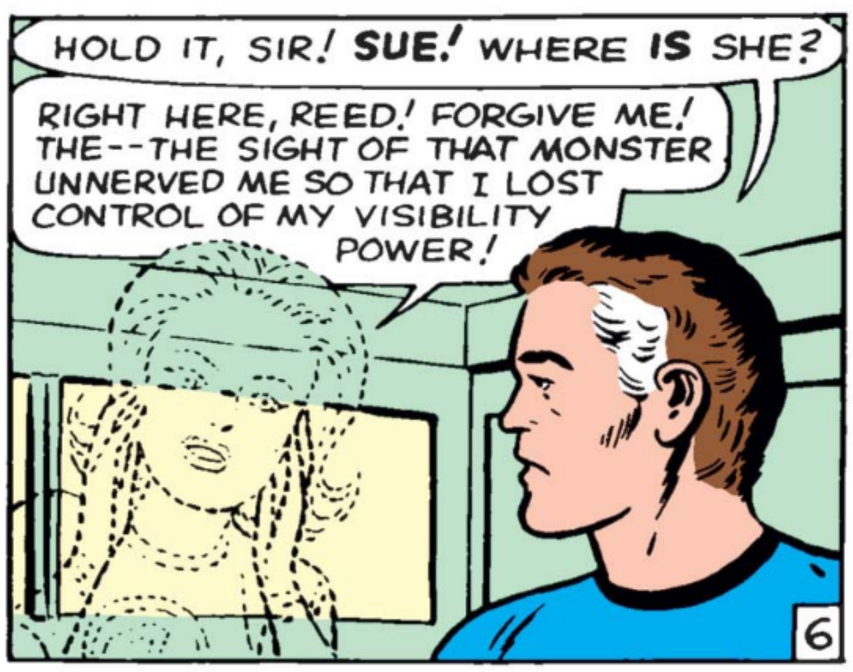
PART 2

MISSION: STOP THE HULK!

THESE ARE THE MOST RECENT RECORDED MOVING PICTURES OF THE **HULK** HIMSELF! THEY WERE TAKEN BY AN AUTOMATIC CAMERA PLACED IN THE SIGHTING DEVICE OF A SPECIAL CANNON!

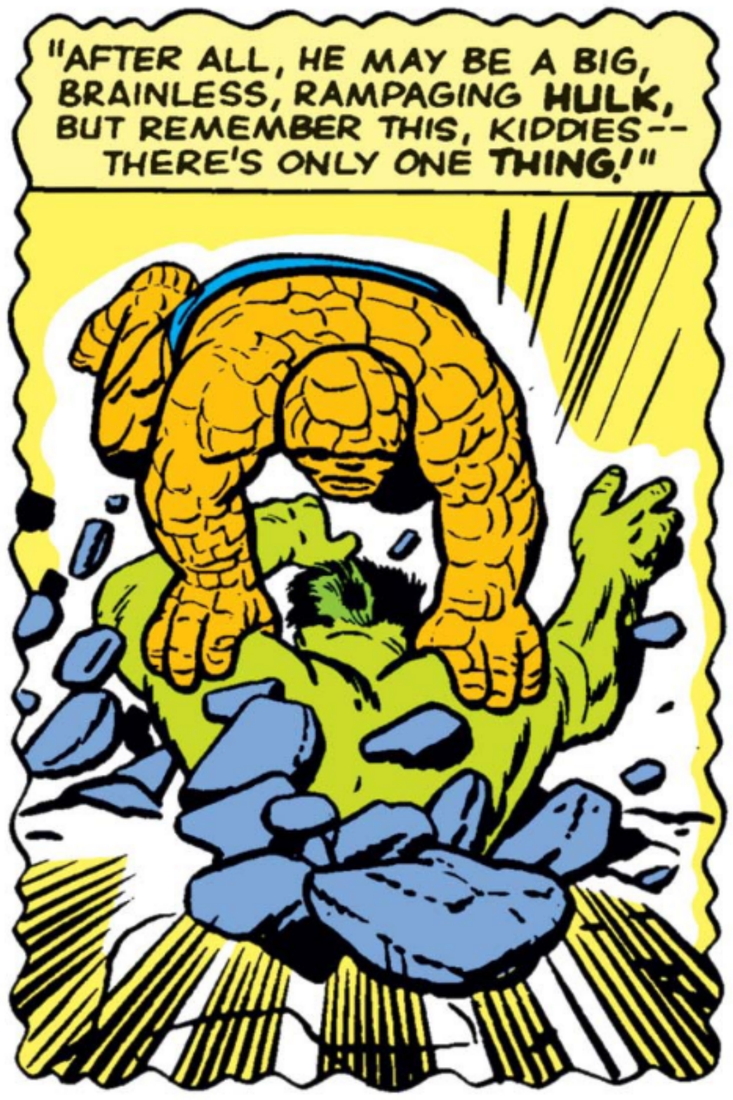
WELL, I GUESS WE'RE LOOKING AT PROOF POSITIVE THAT HE **DOES** EXIST!



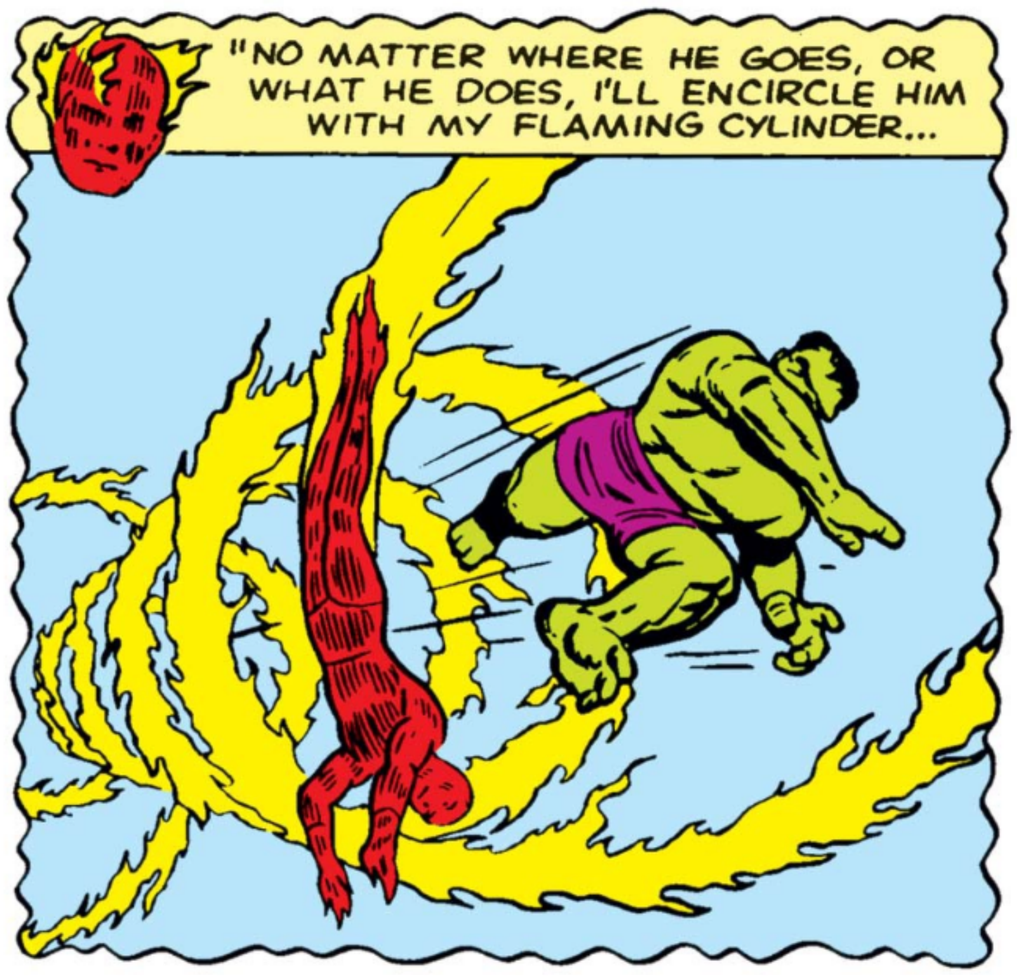


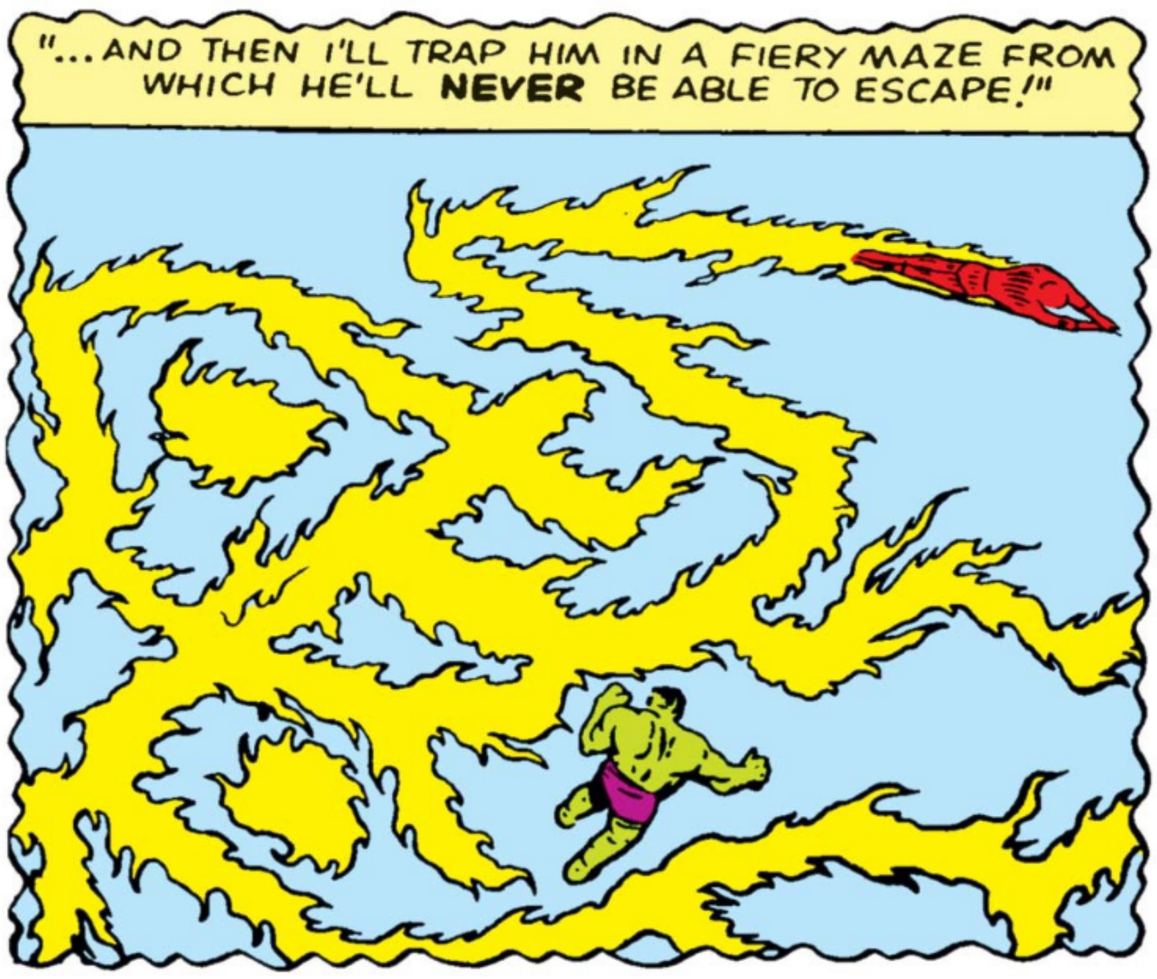
HE-HE WAS THE MOST TERRIFYING-LOOKING CREATURE I'VE EVER SEEN!
HECK! SEEMS TO ME I OUGHTTA BE INSULTED! YOU'VE SEEN ME, HAVEN'T YOU?? WHAT AM I-- A PANTY-WAIST!?

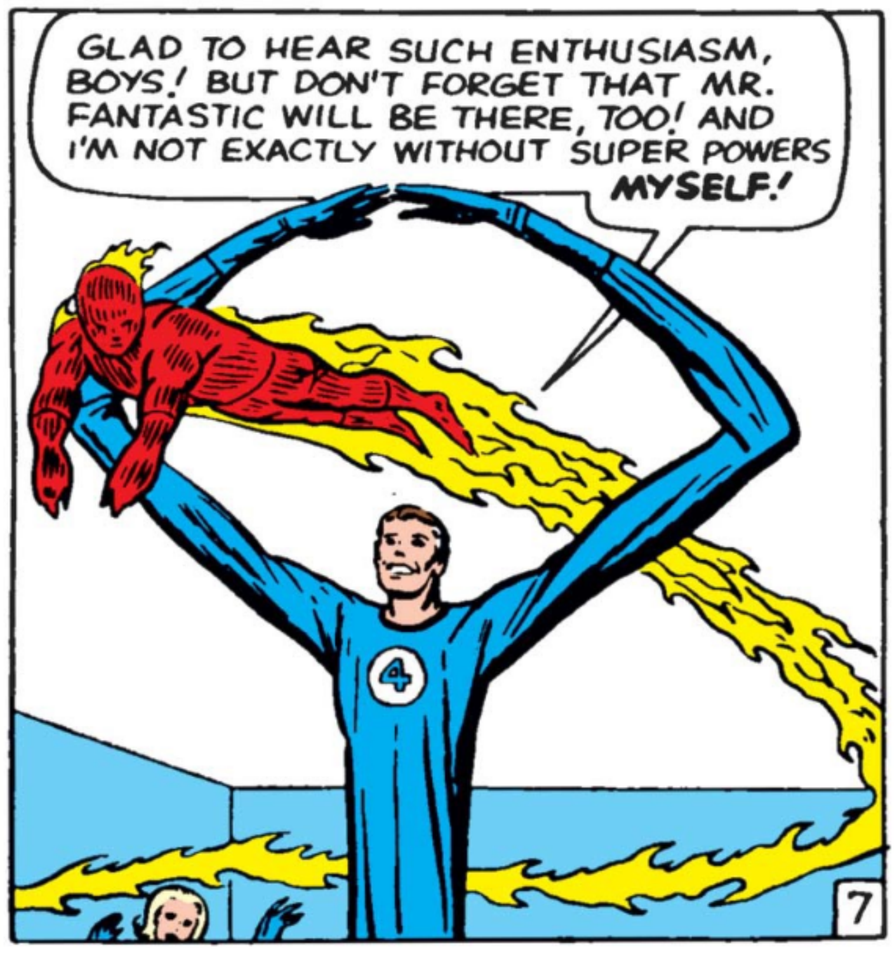
"IF I EVER GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THAT OVER-SIZED CREEP TO GRAB 'IM, I'LL SHOW YA THAT YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT!

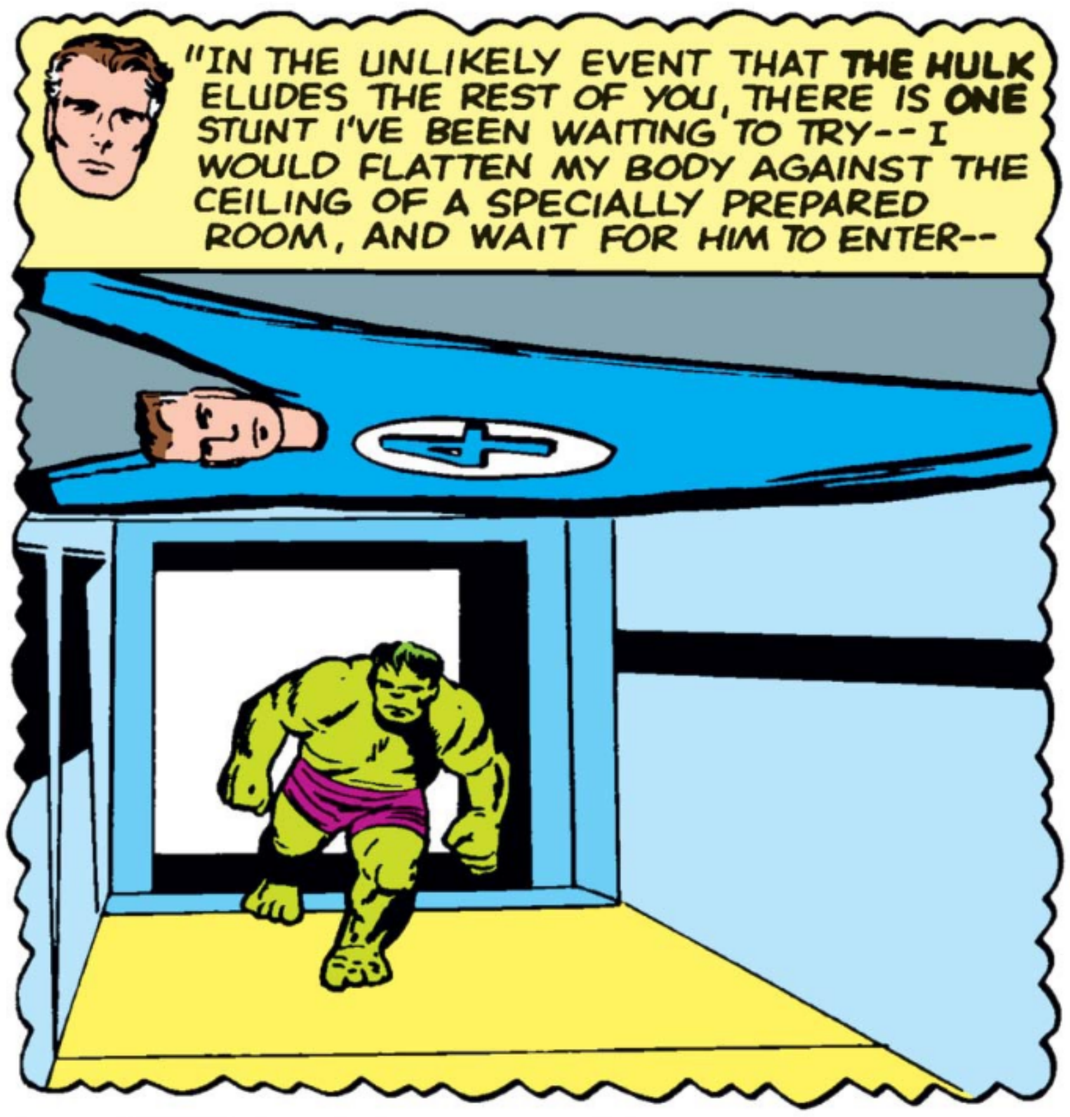

"AFTER ALL, HE MAY BE A BIG, BRAINLESS, RAMPAGING HULK, BUT REMEMBER THIS, KIDDIES-- THERE'S ONLY ONE THING!"

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU GRUESOME! YOU PROBABLY WON'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO GRAB HIM! NOT WITH THE HUMAN TORCH AROUND, BUDDY BOY!
FLAME ON!

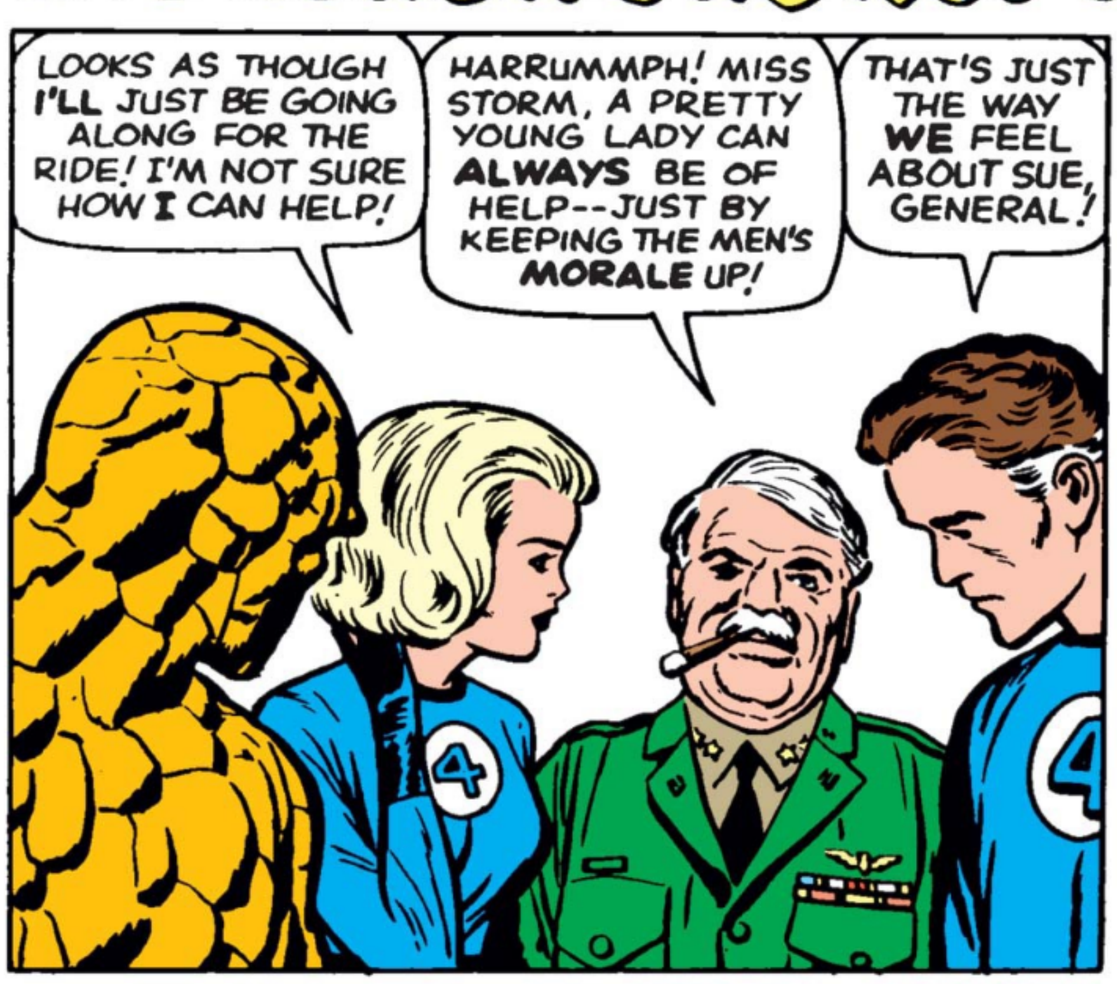

"NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES, OR WHAT HE DOES, I'LL ENCIRCLE HIM WITH MY FLAMING CYLINDER...


"...AND THEN I'LL TRAP HIM IN A FIERY MAZE FROM WHICH HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!"


GLAD TO HEAR SUCH ENTHUSIASM, BOYS! BUT DON'T FORGET THAT MR. FANTASTIC WILL BE THERE, TOO! AND I'M NOT EXACTLY WITHOUT SUPER POWERS MYSELF!

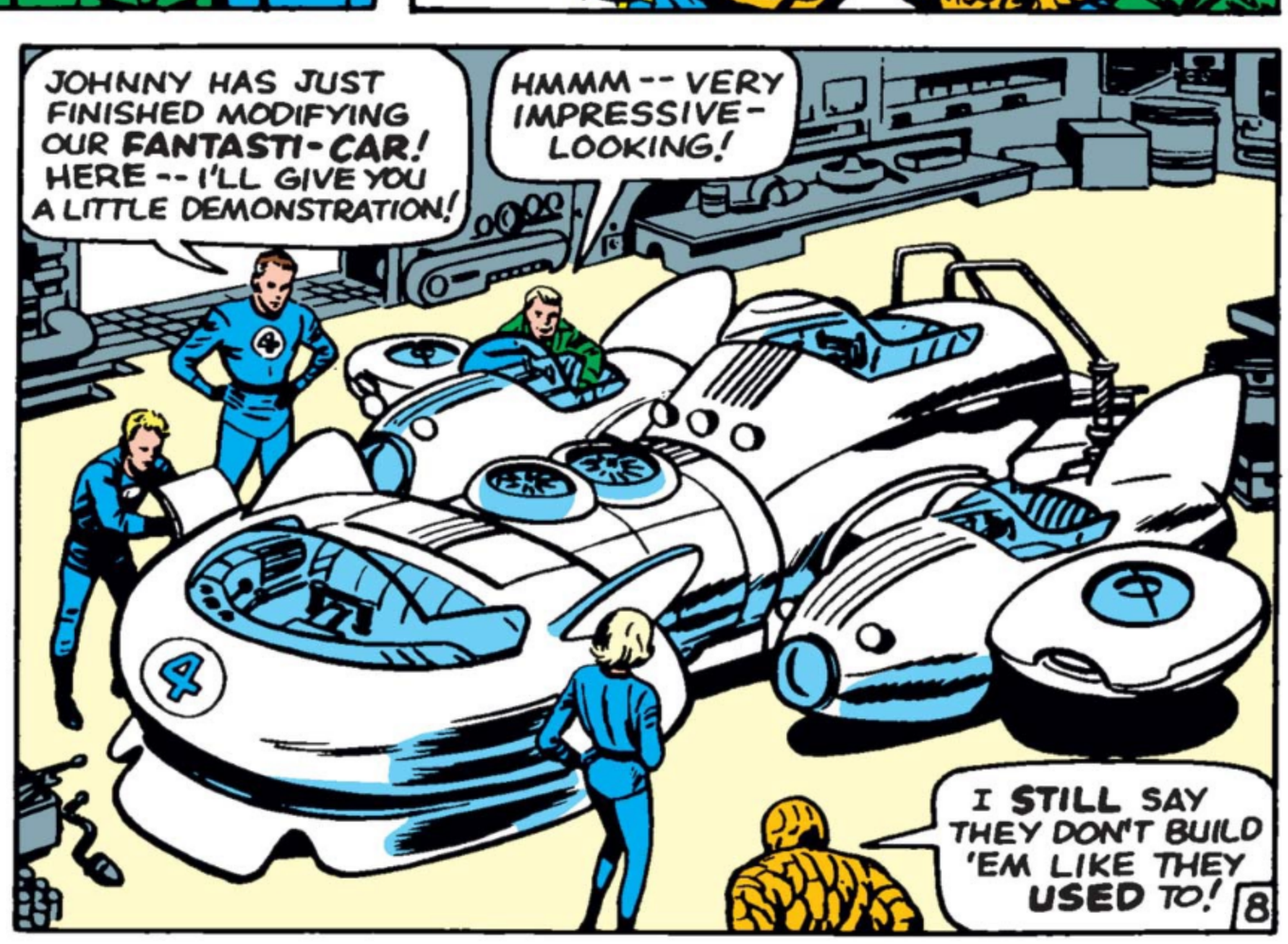

"IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE HULK ELUDES THE REST OF YOU, THERE IS ONE STUNT I'VE BEEN WAITING TO TRY-- I WOULD FLATTEN MY BODY AGAINST THE CEILING OF A SPECIALLY PREPARED ROOM, AND WAIT FOR HIM TO ENTER--

"--AND WHEN HE DOES, THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!"
WHUMP!


LOOKS AS THOUGH I'LL JUST BE GOING ALONG FOR THE RIDE! I'M NOT SURE HOW I CAN HELP!
HARRUMMPH! MISS STORM, A PRETTY YOUNG LADY CAN ALWAYS BE OF HELP--JUST BY KEEPING THE MEN'S MORALE UP!
THAT'S JUST THE WAY WE FEEL ABOUT SUE, GENERAL!

SUDDENLY--
LOOK OUT BELOW! I'M FALLING!
OH, JOHNNY-- YOU FORGOT THAT YOU MUSTN'T KEEP YOUR FLAME ON TOO LONG!
RELAX, RELAX! I GOT 'IM!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT THE HUMAN TORCH MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO YOUNG FOR SUCH A DANGEROUS MISSION, MR. FANTASTIC?
WHO, HIM? DON'T LET HIS AGE FOOL YOU, SIR! THAT FLAME OF HIS IS ONE OF OUR MOST POTENT WEAPONS --AS WELL AS HIS MECHANICAL SKILL! IN FACT, I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION!
YOU TELL 'IM, BIG DADDY!


JOHNNY HAS JUST FINISHED MODIFYING OUR FANTASTI-CAR! HERE -- I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION!
HMMM -- VERY IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING!
I STILL SAY THEY DON'T BUILD 'EM LIKE THEY USED TO!

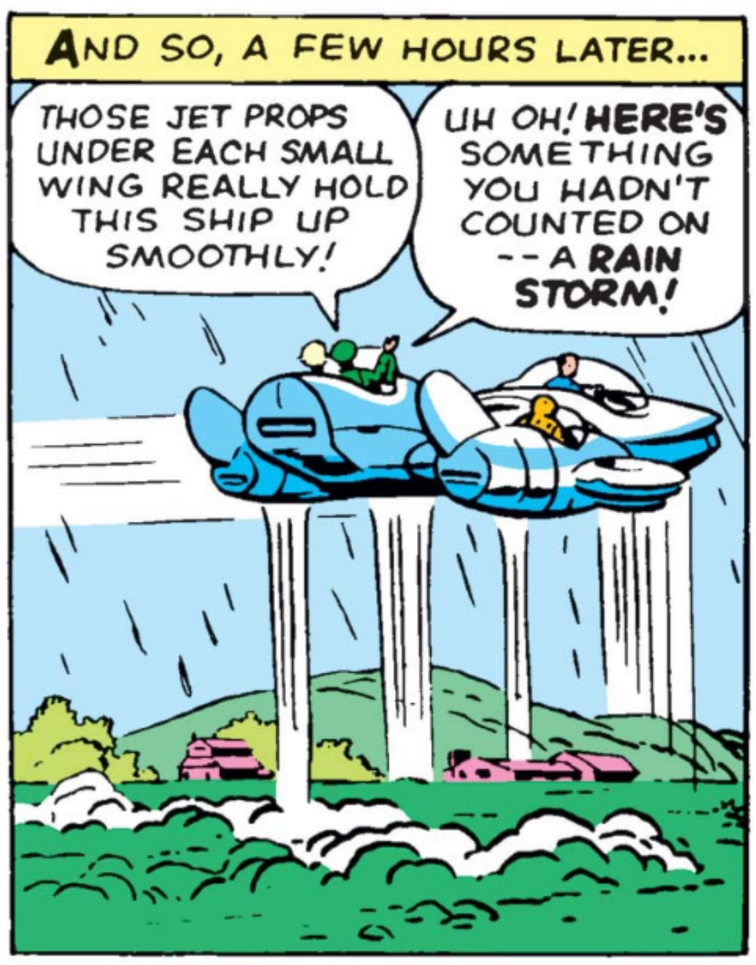
A NUMBER OF OUR FANS THRUOUT THE COUNTRY HAD WRITTEN TO US SAYING THE FANTASTI-CAR LOOKED TOO MUCH LIKE A FLYING BATHTUB! AND JOHNNNY AGREED WITH THEM!

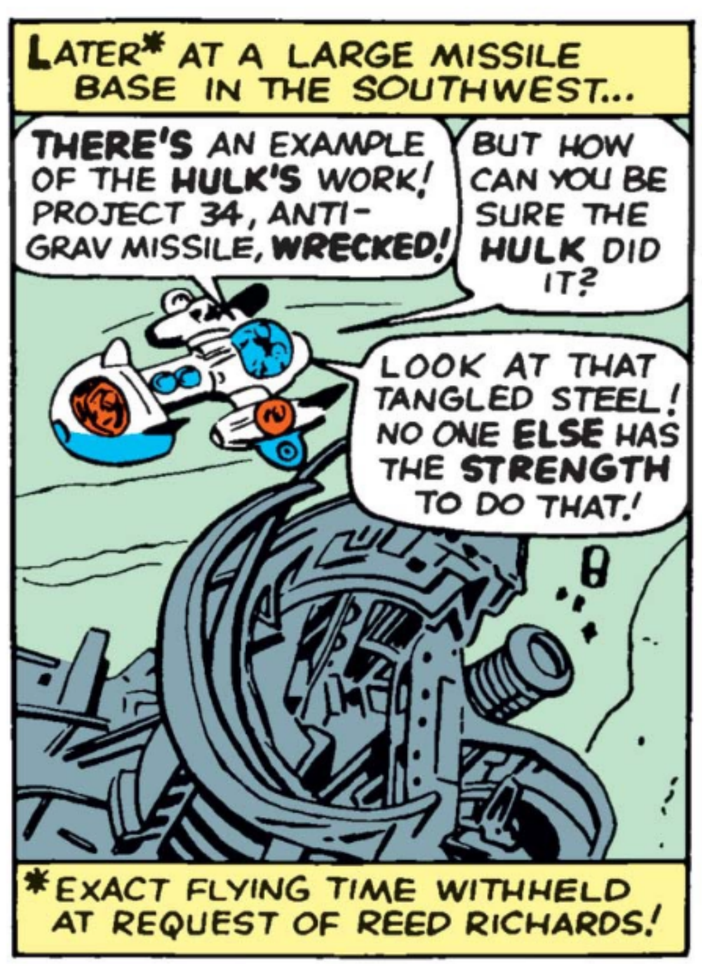
TELL ME MORE **ABOUT** THIS THING --WHAT'S HER TOP SPEED? HER CRUISING RANGE?

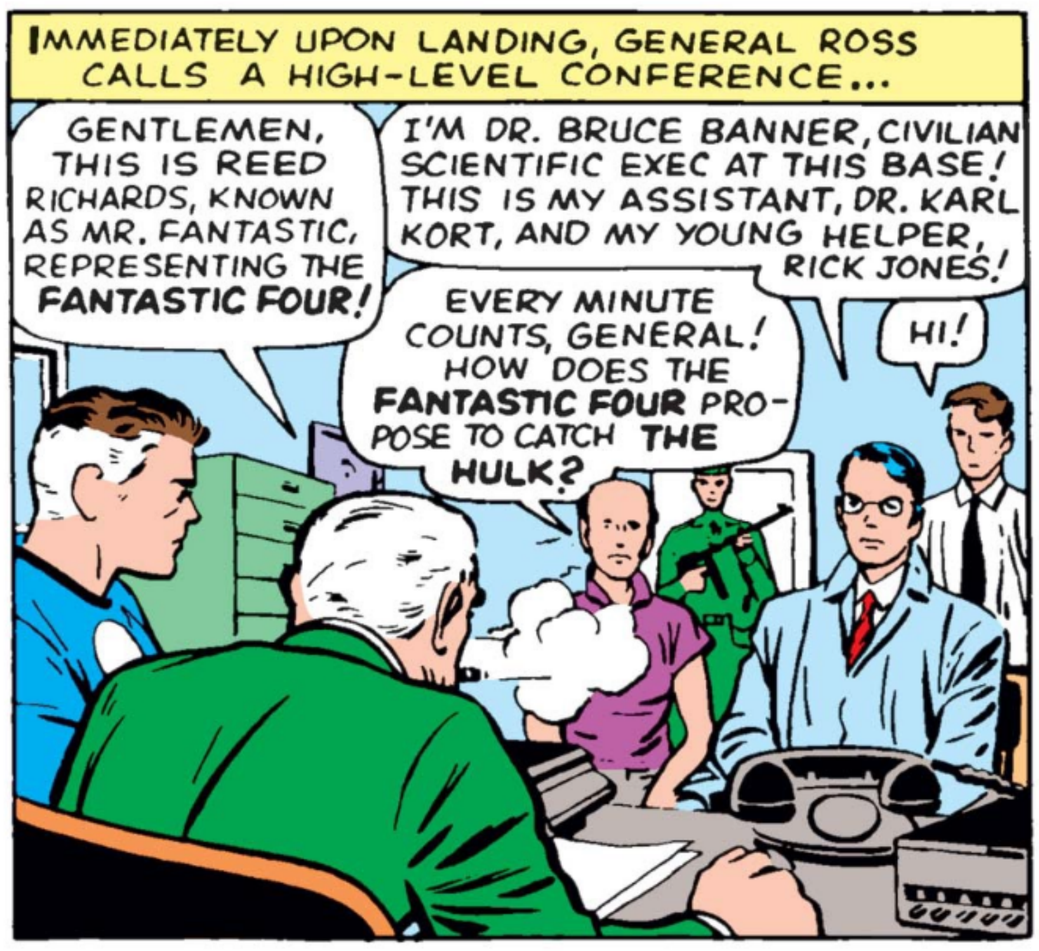
TOP SPEED'S A SECRET, GENERAL-- BUT IT'S FASTER THAN YOU'D SUSPECT! AS FOR HER CRUISING RANGE, WE'VE EXTENDED IT TO BETTER THAN THREE THOUSAND MILES--ENOUGH TO TAKE US CLEAR ACROSS THE U.S.A.!

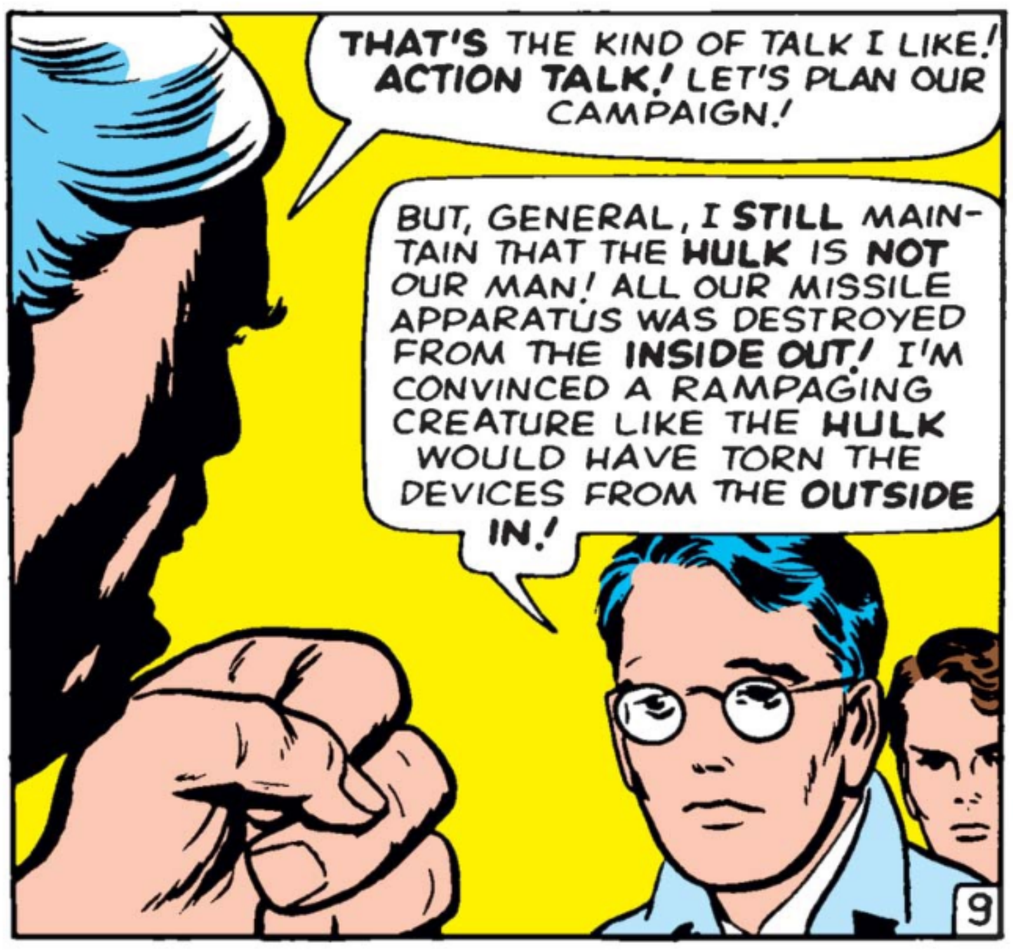
STOP YAKKIN' AND SHOW THE BRASS HOW ALL FOUR SECTIONS CAN DISENGAGE AND FLY SEPARATELY! AND REMEMBER, THAT WAS **MY** IDEA!

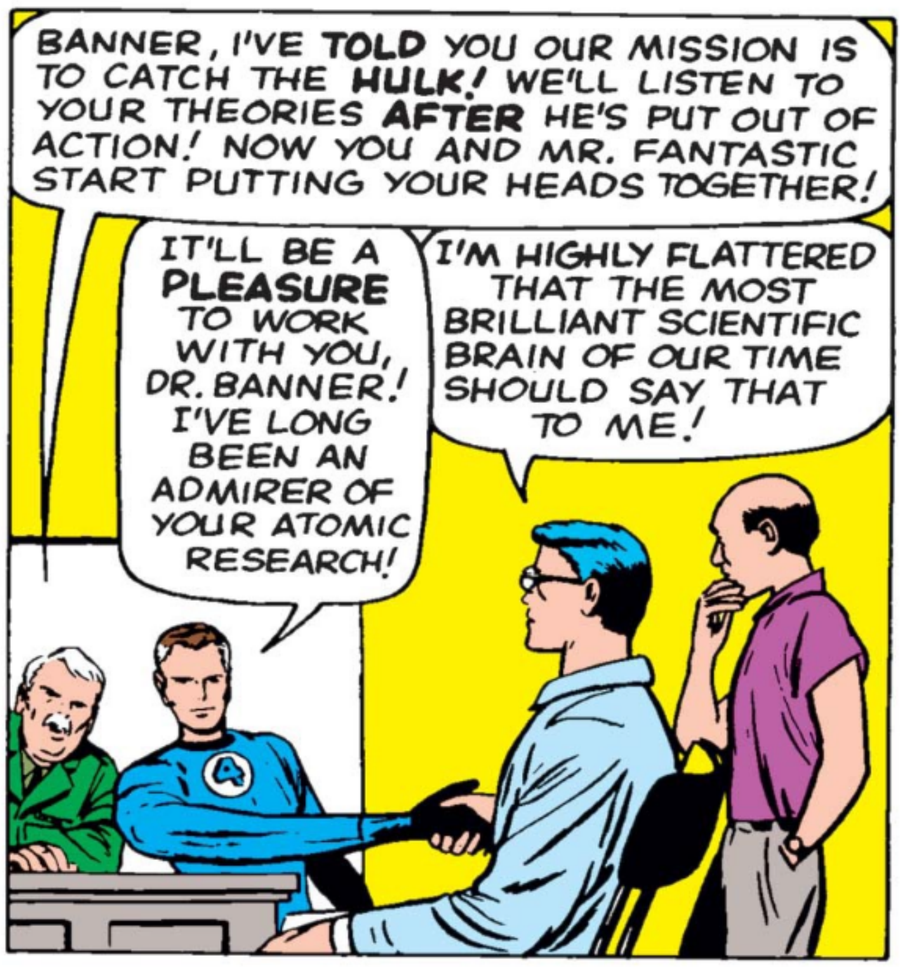
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHY DON'T WE USE THE FANTASTI-CAR **NOW** TO FLY TO THE MISSILE AREA? WE CAN TAKE YOU **WITH** US, GENERAL!







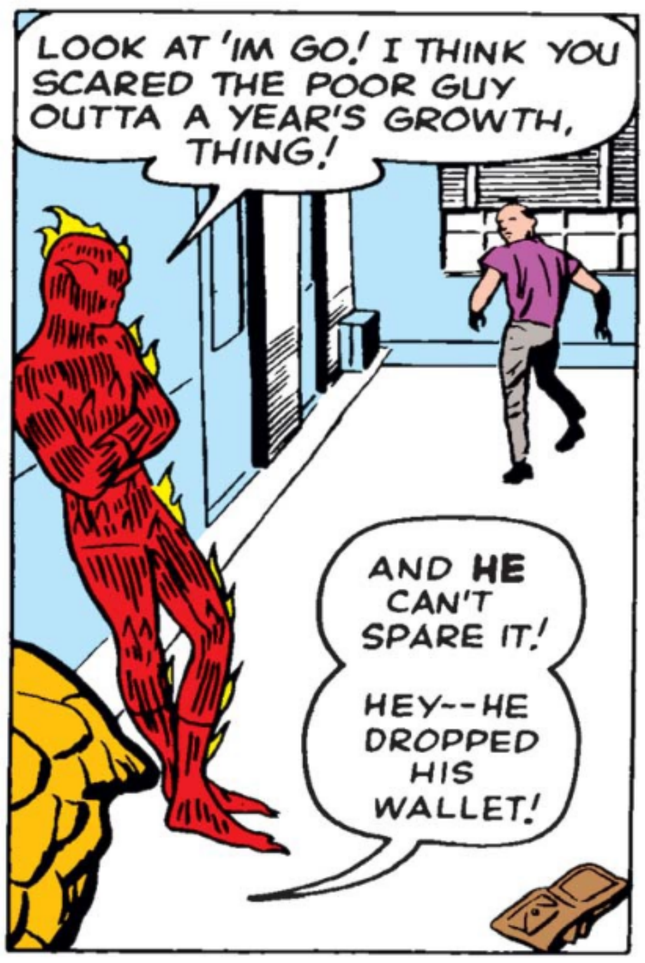


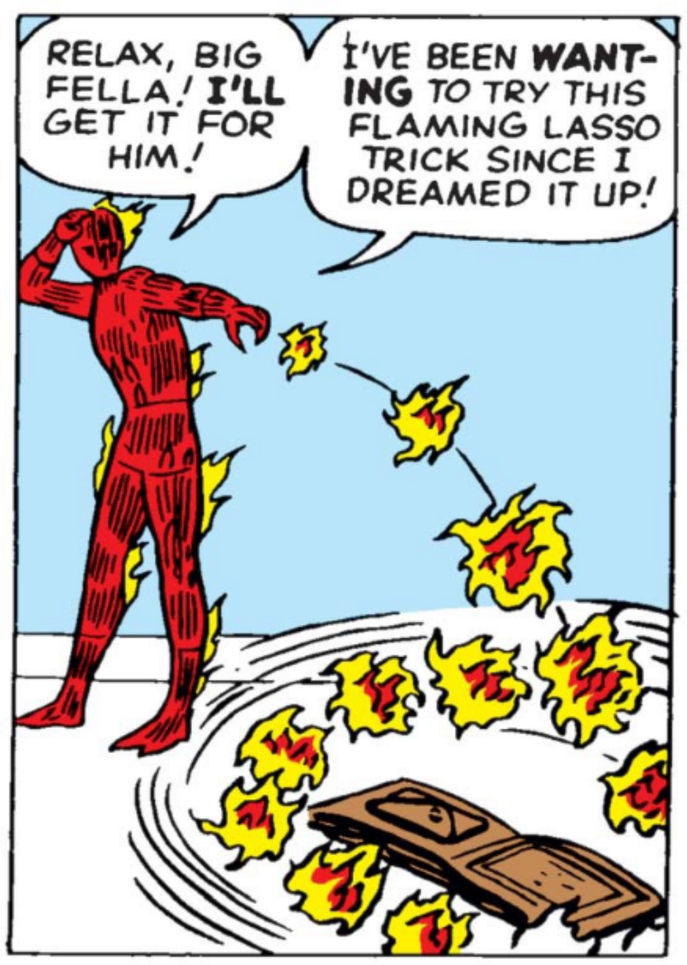

BANNER, I'VE TOLD YOU OUR MISSION IS TO CATCH THE HULK! WE'LL LISTEN TO YOUR THEORIES AFTER HE'S PUT OUT OF ACTION! NOW YOU AND MR. FANTASTIC START PUTTING YOUR HEADS TOGETHER!
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU, DR. BANNER! I'VE LONG BEEN AN ADMIRER OF YOUR ATOMIC RESEARCH!
I'M HIGHLY FLATTERED THAT THE MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTIFIC BRAIN OF OUR TIME SHOULD SAY THAT TO ME!

WELL, YOU GENTLEMEN WON'T BE NEEDING ME FOR A WHILE! I'LL GET BACK TO MY WORK!

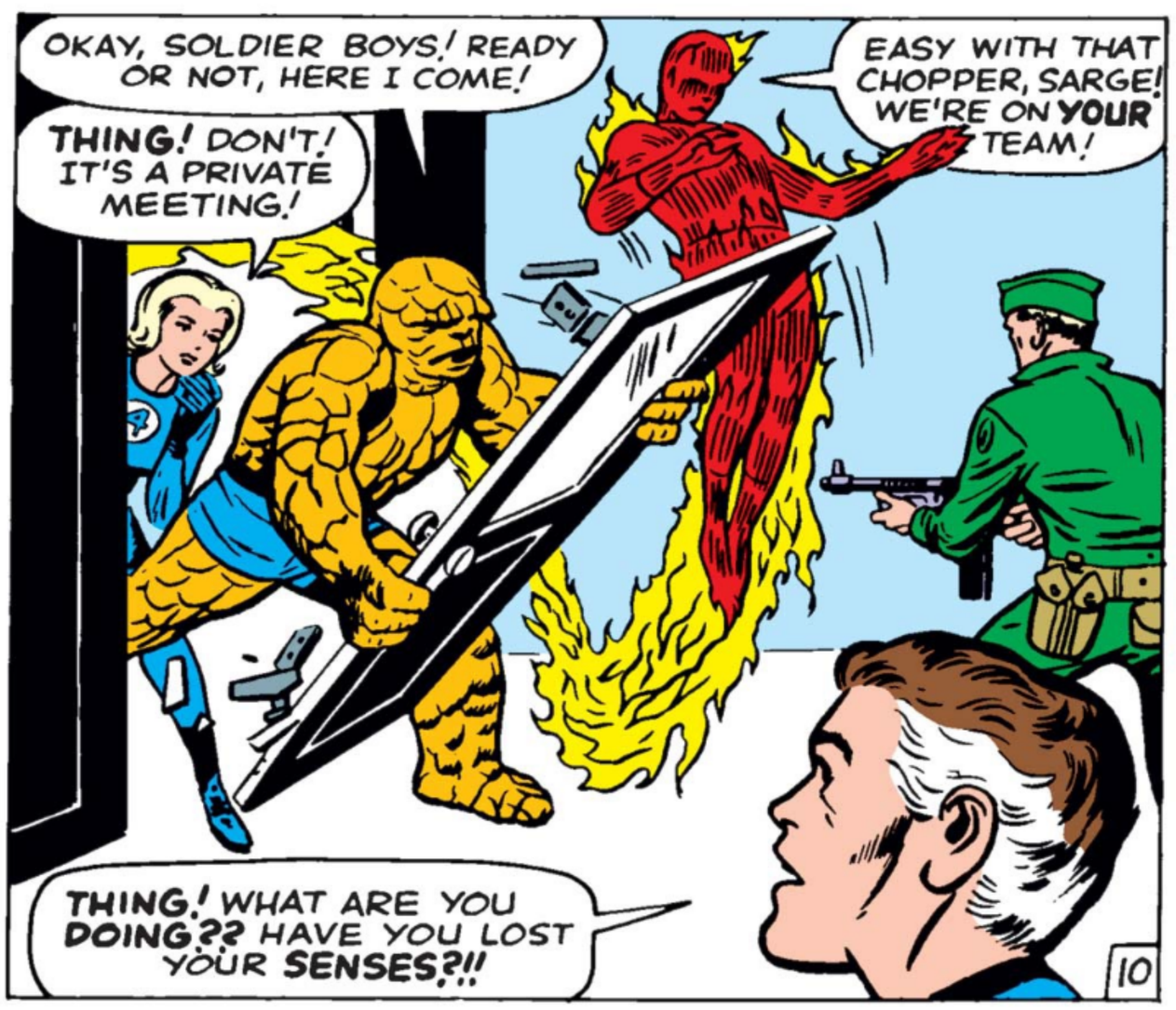
HEY, SHORTY, HOW MUCH LONGER THEY GONNA KEEP US COOLIN' OUR HEELS OUT HERE?
GASP! WHA- WHAT ARE YOU??!

S'MATTER-- AIN'T YOU NEVER SEEN A THING BEFORE??
I'M GETTIN' FED UP WITH GUYS DOIN' DOUBLE-TAKES EVERY TIME THEY SEE ME!


LOOK AT 'IM GO! I THINK YOU SCARED THE POOR GUY OUTTA A YEAR'S GROWTH, THING!
AND HE CAN'T SPARE IT!
HEY--HE DROPPED HIS WALLET!


RELAX, BIG FELLA! I'LL GET IT FOR HIM!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY THIS FLAMING LASSO TRICK SINCE I DREAMED IT UP!

NOT BAD, EH? AND I DIDN'T EVEN SINGE THE LEATHER!
I AIN'T IN THE MOOD FOR TRICKS! THEY CAN'T KEEP ME WAITIN' OUT HERE ANY LONGER!


OKAY, SOLDIER BOYS! READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!
THING! DON'T! IT'S A PRIVATE MEETING!
EASY WITH THAT CHOPPER, SARGE! WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM!
THING! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?!!

PART 3

WHO IS THE WRECKER?

OF ALL THE BLANKETTY-BLANK--!! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?! ATTENTION, ALL OF YOU! THAT'S AN ORDER!

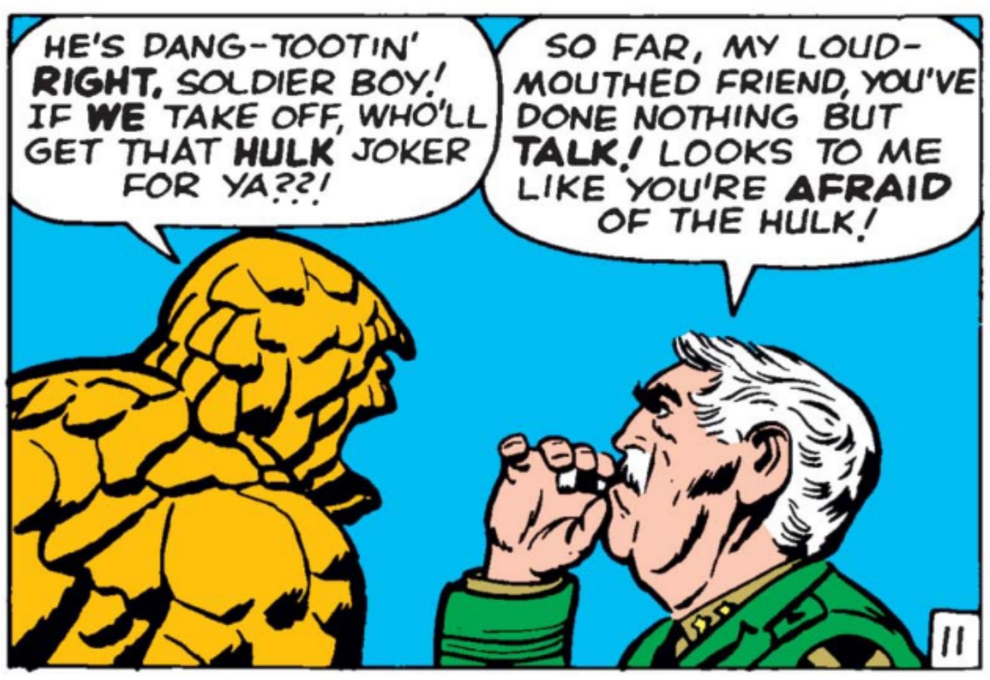
DON'T BE ALARMED, SIR! I'LL QUIET THEM DOWN! LET ME HANDLE THIS!

WHEEE! ABOUT TIME WE HAD A LITTLE ACTION!

WE'RE THE FANTASTIC FOUR, NOT THE FANTASTIC ONE! I DON'T LIKE BEIN' KEPT ON THE OUTSIDE!

GIVE ME THAT GUN BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

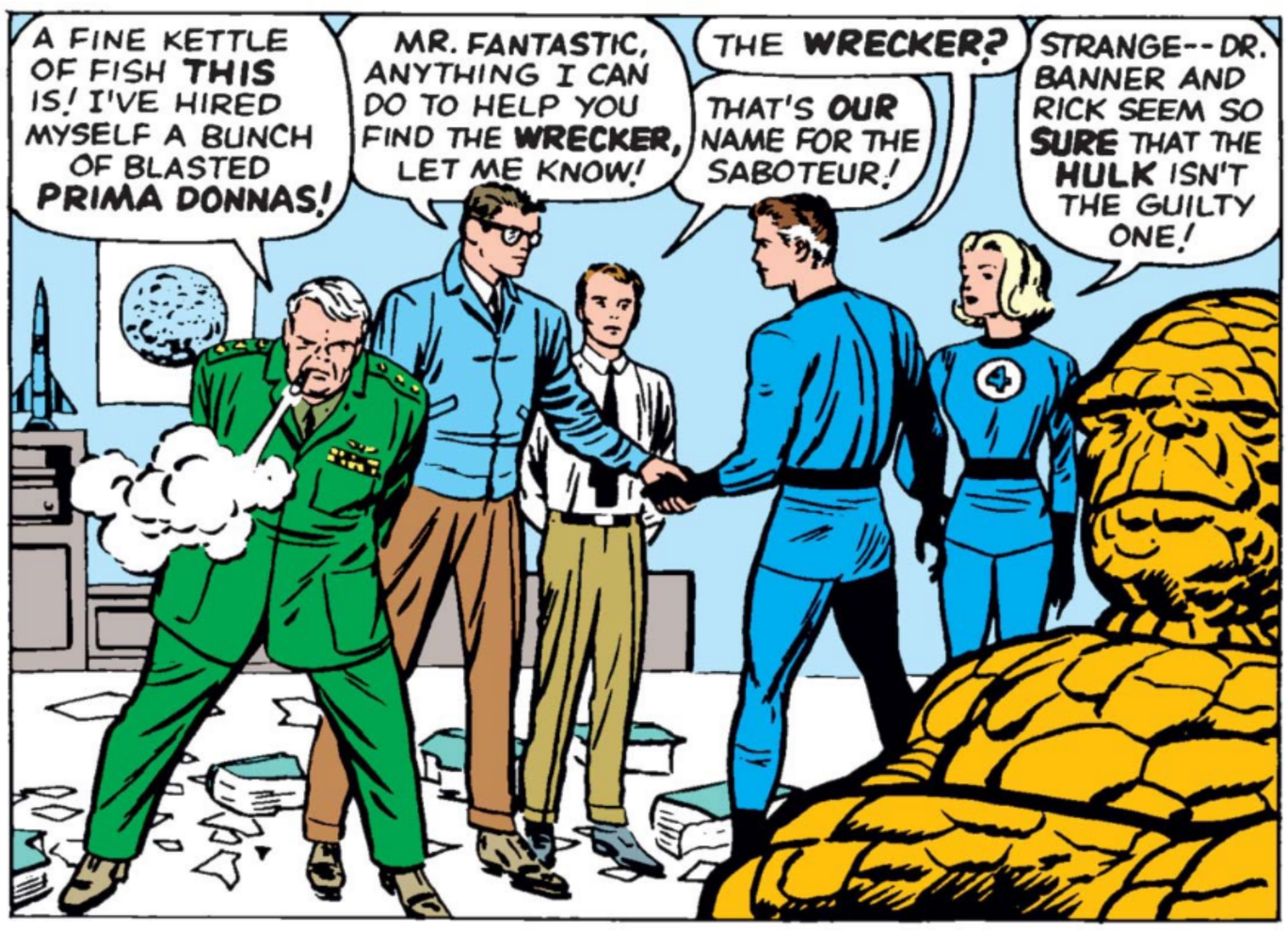
A VOICE FROM NOWHERE! THE PLACE IS HAUNTED!

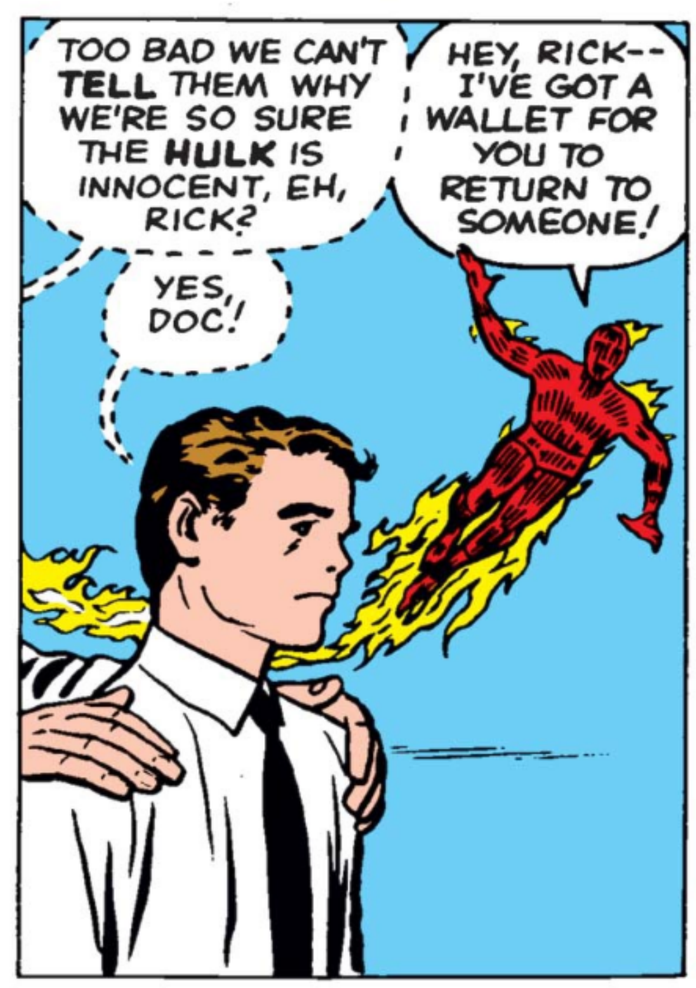


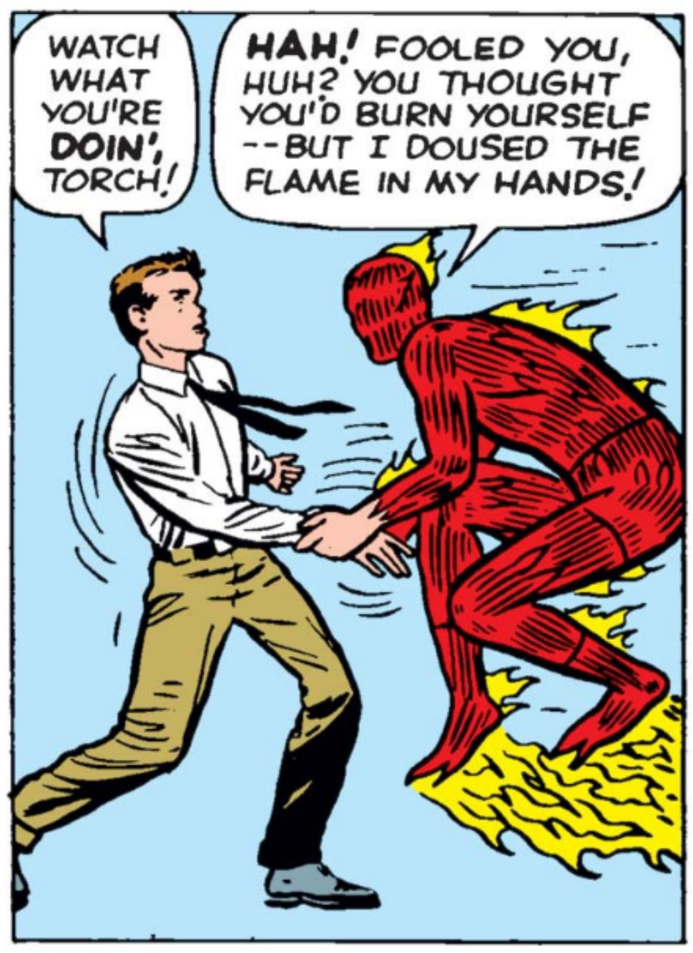
AFRAID OF THE HULK, AM I ??
I'LL SHOW YA WHO'S AFRAID OF WHAT!!!

THIS IS WHAT I'LL DO TO THAT OVERSIZED CRUMB-BUM WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON 'IM!
RRRRRRIIIP!

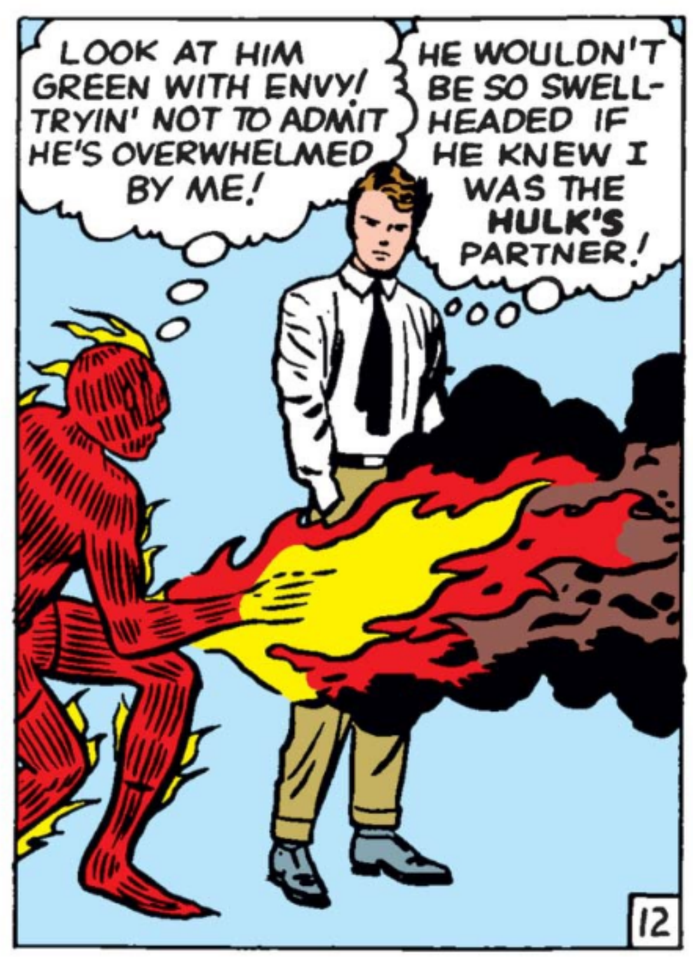
OH NO! THE BIG APE RUINED MY BOUND SET OF TELEPHONE BOOKS! OF ALL THE--!!!
EASY, GENERAL! WE'LL REIMBURSE YOU FOR THEM! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO THE THING!

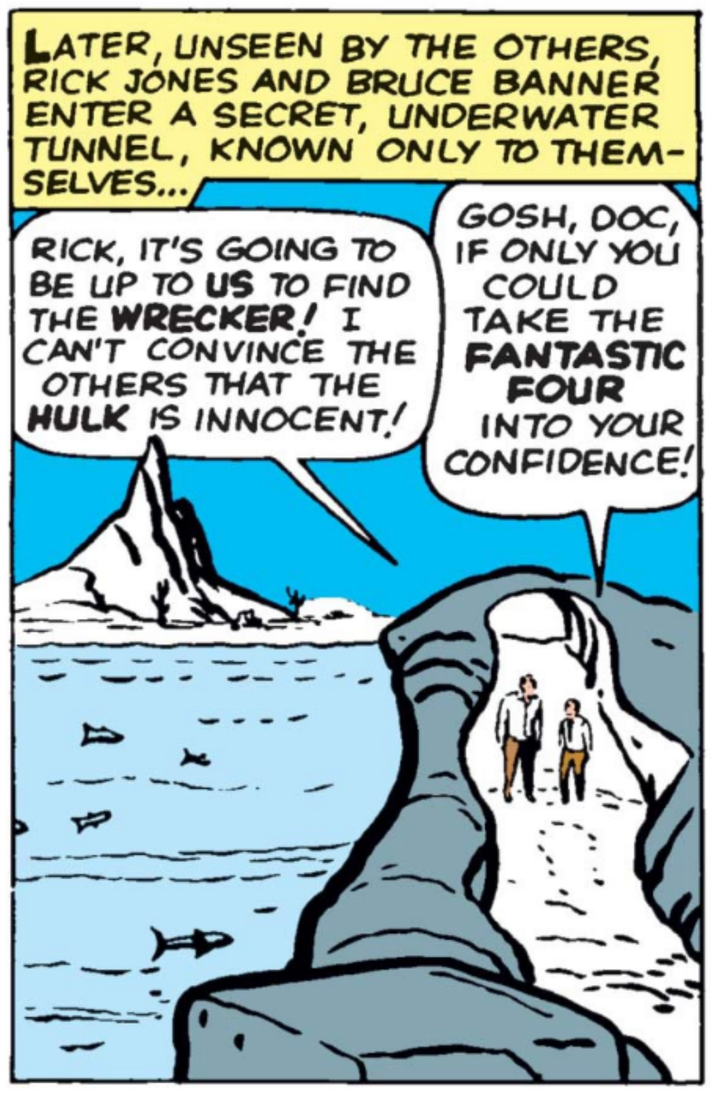

A FINE KETTLE OF FISH THIS IS! I'VE HIRED MYSELF A BUNCH OF BLASTED PRIMA DONNAS!
MR. FANTASTIC, ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU FIND THE WRECKER, LET ME KNOW!
THE WRECKER?
THAT'S OUR NAME FOR THE SABOTEUR!
STRANGE--DR. BANNER AND RICK SEEM SO SURE THAT THE HULK ISN'T THE GUILTY ONE!

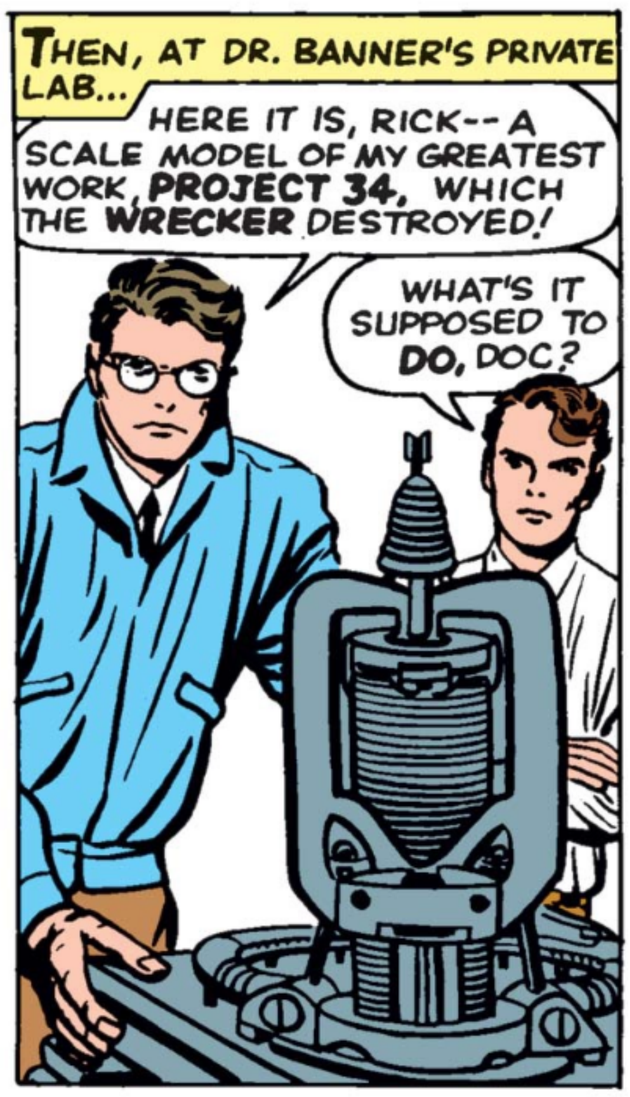

TOO BAD WE CAN'T TELL THEM WHY WE'RE SO SURE THE HULK IS INNOCENT, EH, RICK?
YES, DOC!
HEY, RICK-- I'VE GOT A WALLET FOR YOU TO RETURN TO SOMEONE!


WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOIN', TORCH!
HAH! FOOLED YOU, HUH? YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BURN YOURSELF --BUT I DOUSED THE FLAME IN MY HANDS!

BOY! YOU'RE JUST A BARREL OF LAUGHS, AIN'T YA?
DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEIN' IMPRESSED, SON!

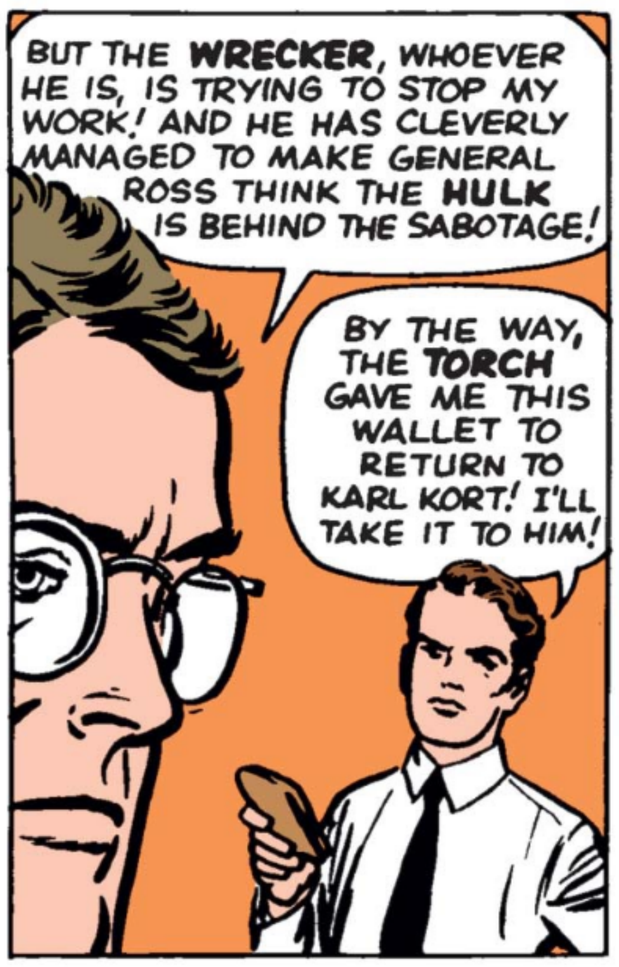

LOOK AT HIM GREEN WITH ENVY! TRYIN' NOT TO ADMIT HE'S OVERWHELMED BY ME!
HE WOULDN'T BE SO SWELL-HEADED IF HE KNEW I WAS THE HULK'S PARTNER!


LATER, UNSEEN BY THE OTHERS, RICK JONES AND BRUCE BANNER ENTER A SECRET, UNDERWATER TUNNEL, KNOWN ONLY TO THEMSELVES...
RICK, IT'S GOING TO BE UP TO US TO FIND THE WRECKER! I CAN'T CONVINCE THE OTHERS THAT THE HULK IS INNOCENT!
GOSH, DOC, IF ONLY YOU COULD TAKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR INTO YOUR CONFIDENCE!


THEN, AT DR. BANNER'S PRIVATE LAB...
HERE IT IS, RICK-- A SCALE MODEL OF MY GREATEST WORK, PROJECT 34, WHICH THE WRECKER DESTROYED!
WHAT'S IT SUPPOSED TO DO, DOC?

"PLACED IN THE CENTER OF A CITY, IT WOULD EMIT ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, BLANKETING THE AREA...

"...MAKING ANY U.S. CITY COMPLETELY INVULNERABLE TO ENEMY MISSILES OR ROCKETS! ONCE I PERFECT IT, IT WILL BE THE PERFECT DEFENSE IN A NUCLEAR AGE!"


BUT THE WRECKER, WHOEVER HE IS, IS TRYING TO STOP MY WORK! AND HE HAS CLEVERLY MANAGED TO MAKE GENERAL ROSS THINK THE HULK IS BEHIND THE SABOTAGE!
BY THE WAY, THE TORCH GAVE ME THIS WALLET TO RETURN TO KARL KORT! I'LL TAKE IT TO HIM!

I SURE HOPE THE HULK DOESN'T APPEAR WHILE THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE HERE! THEY MIGHT BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR HIM TO HANDLE!
SAY! WHAT'S THIS CARD STICKIN' OUT OF KORT'S WALLET? IT LOOKS LIKE...

IT IS! IT'S A MEMBERSHIP CARD IN A SUBVERSIVE COMMUNIST-FRONT ORGANIZATION!
THAT MEANS--KARL KORT MUST BE--A RED!

I'VE GOTTA TELL THE HULK! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO--
YOU'RE NOT TELLING ANYONE, YOU LITTLE SNOOP!

SO YOU'RE IN LEAGUE WITH THE HULK, ARE YOU?? WELL, WELL! NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO DESTROY HIM AS WELL AS BANNER'S PROJECT 34!
YOU-- YOU'RE THE WRECKER!

PART 4 "the HULK AT LAST!"

RELAX, NAPOLEON! WE JUST IRONED 'EM OUT **FOR** YA! BESIDES, I ALWAYS **WANTED** TO RIDE ON ONE O' THESE KIDDIE-CARS!

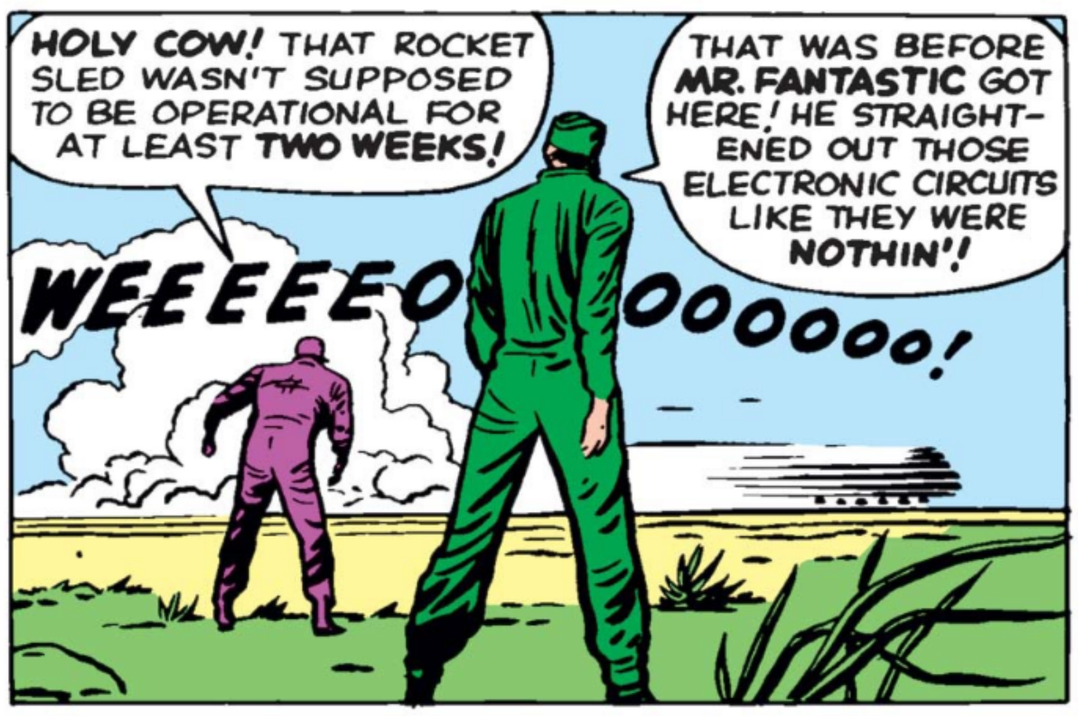
I NOTICED THE SLED HERE, GENERAL, AND I SAW WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS! I THINK WE'VE GOT IT LICKED FOR YOU! ANYWAY, WE'LL KNOW IN A MOMENT!

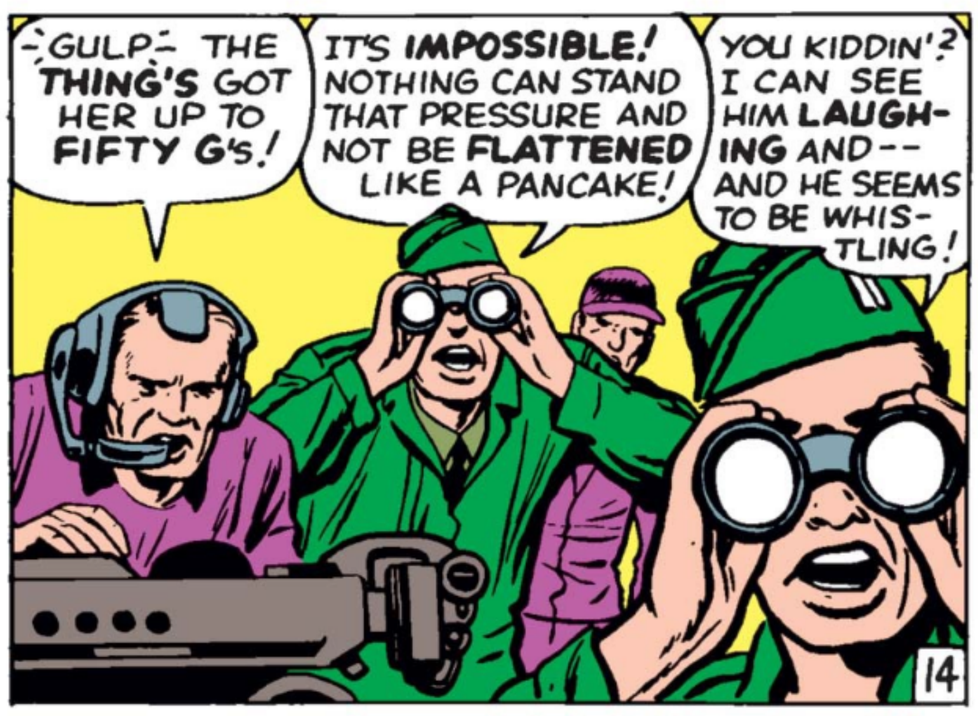
THING! GET **OUT** OF THERE! THAT ROCKET SLED ISN'T READY FOR TESTING YET! IT HAS SOME BUGS WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IRON OUT!

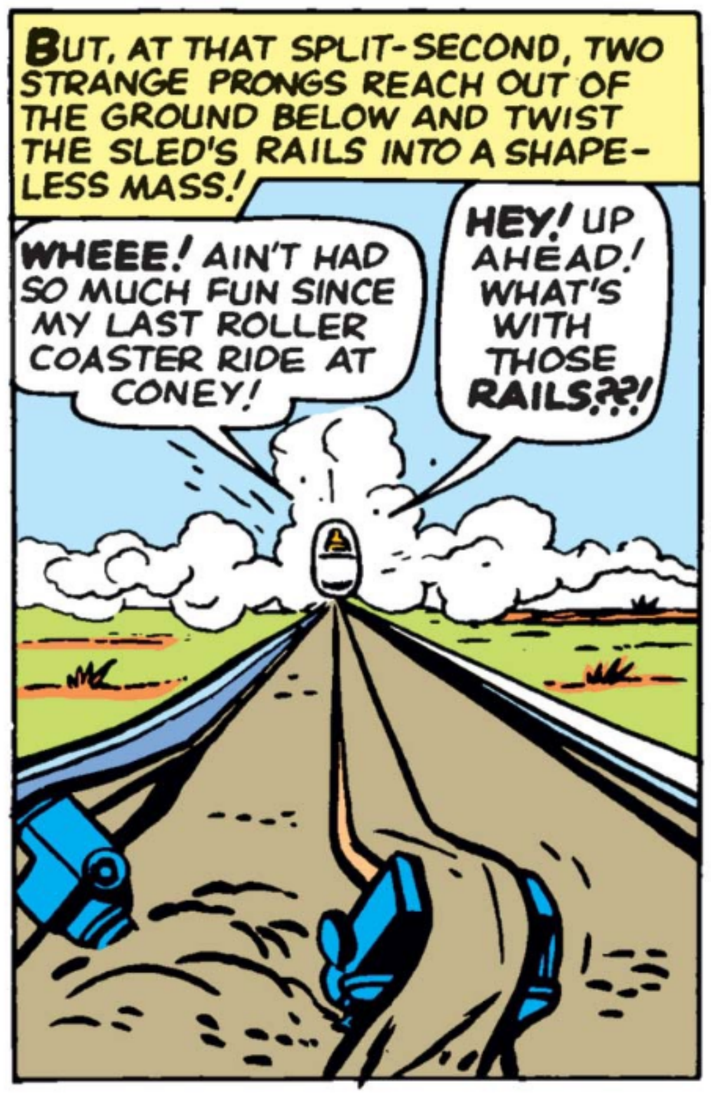
ROCKET SLED X2A-17

ALL CONDITIONS ARE "GO", REED! WHENEVER BEN IS READY!

I CHECKED ALL THE RAILS AND WELDED A FEW WEAK SPOTS! LET 'ER RIP!

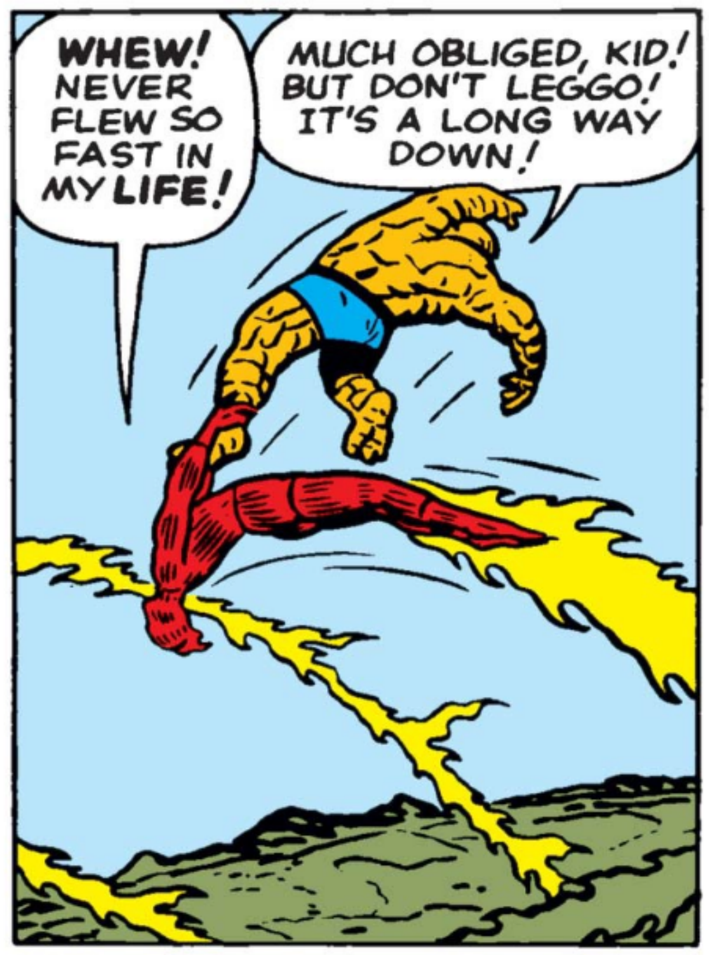


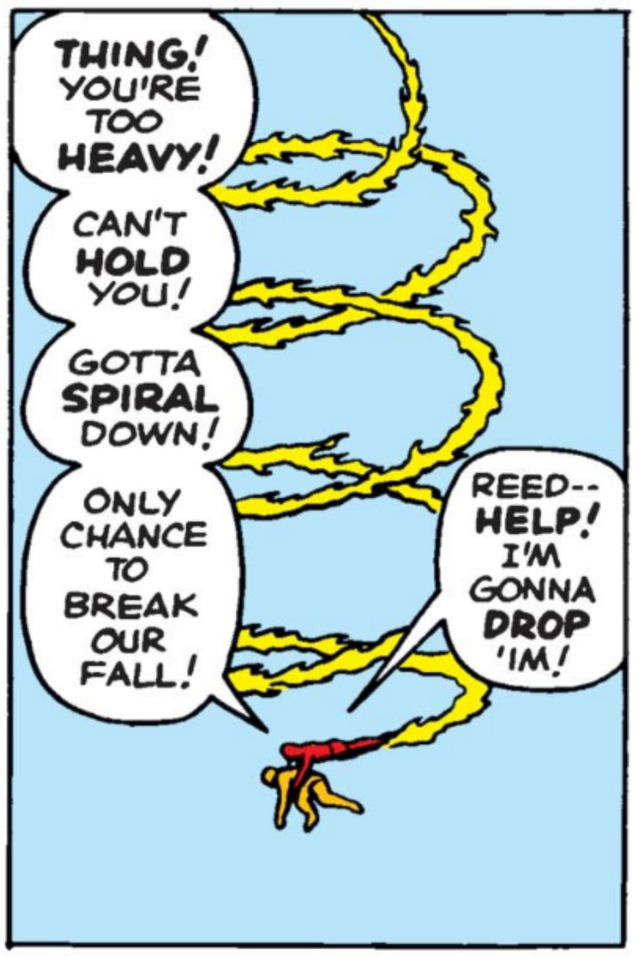



BUT, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, TWO STRANGE PRONGS REACH OUT OF THE GROUND BELOW AND TWIST THE SLED'S RAILS INTO A SHAPE-LESS MASS!
WHEEE! AIN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN SINCE MY LAST ROLLER COASTER RIDE AT CONEY!
HEY! UP AHEAD! WHAT'S WITH THOSE RAILS??!

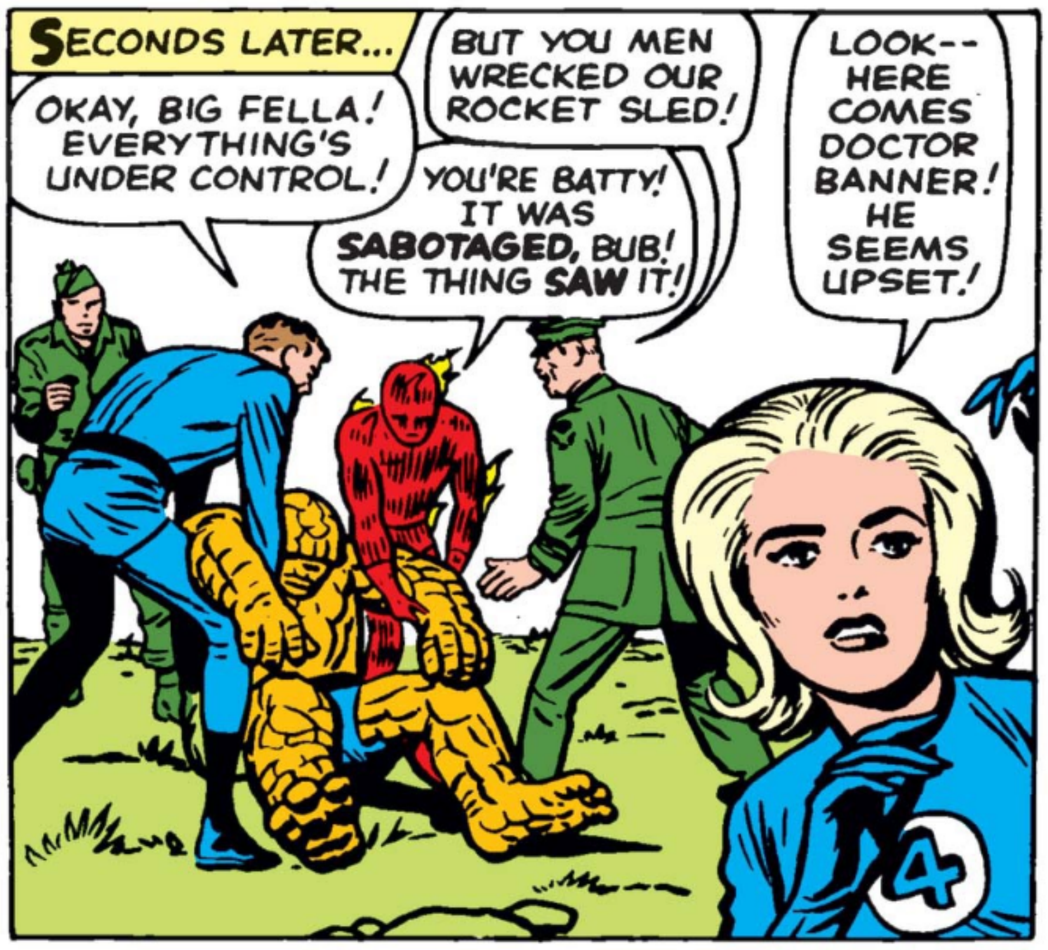
YEOWWW!
WHAM!

TORCH! QUICK! THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT!
'WAY AHEAD OF YA, PARTNER! I'M OFF!
FLAME ON!


WHEW! NEVER FLEW SO FAST IN MY LIFE!
MUCH OBLIGED, KID! BUT DON'T LEGGO! IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!


THING! YOU'RE TOO HEAVY!
CAN'T HOLD YOU!
GOTTA SPIRAL DOWN!
ONLY CHANCE TO BREAK OUR FALL!
REED-- HELP! I'M GONNA DROP 'IM!

I'M READY, BEN! DON'T TIGHTEN UP --LAND AS LOOSE AS YOU CAN!
THIS IS GONNA HURT YOU MORE'N ME, PAL!

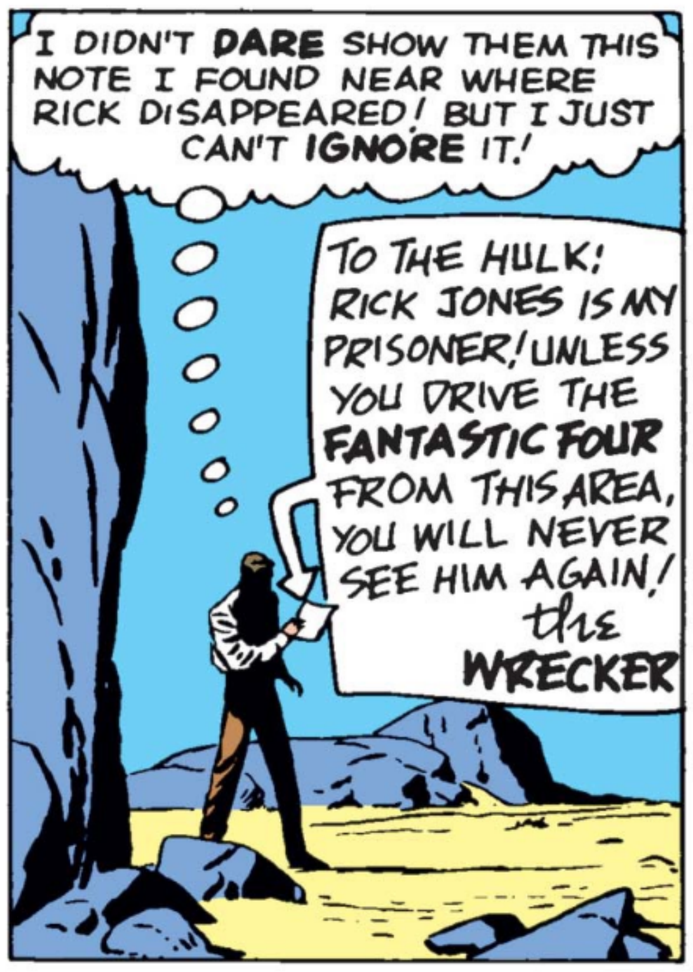

SECONDS LATER...
OKAY, BIG FELLA! EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL!
BUT YOU MEN WRECKED OUR ROCKET SLED!
YOU'RE BATTY! IT WAS SABOTAGED, BUB! THE THING SAW IT!
LOOK-- HERE COMES DOCTOR BANNER! HE SEEMS UPSET!

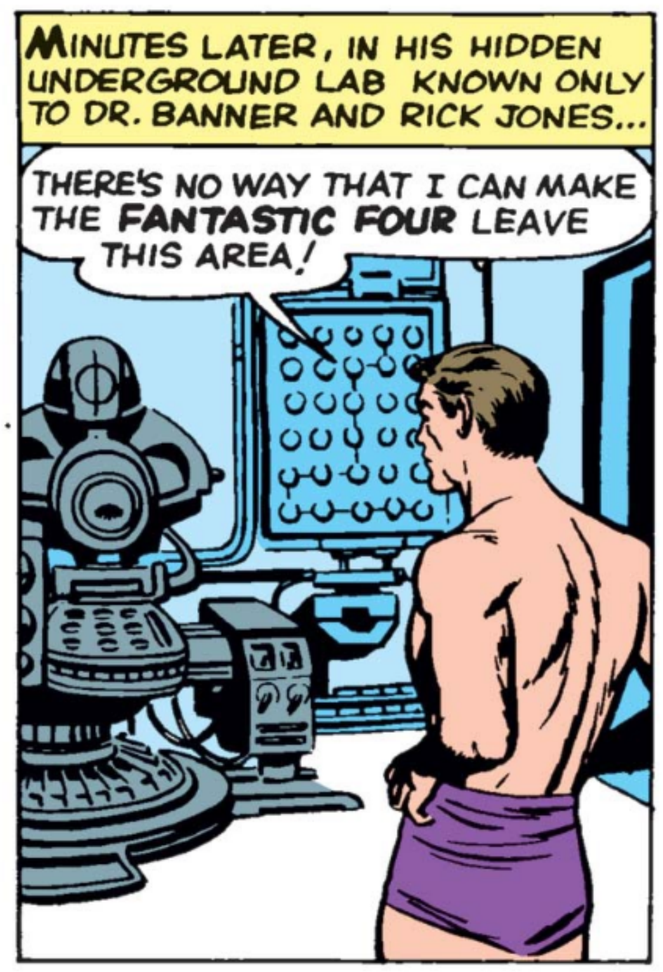
I NEED YOUR HELP! RICK JONES IS GONE! I'M AFRAID THE WRECKER GOT HIM!
WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU, TOO! SOME-ONE JUST SABOTAGED THE ROCKET SLED!
WHAT'S ALL THIS "WRECKER" JAZZ? IT'S THE HULK, AND WE KNOW IT!
15

NO ONE BUT THAT BLASTED HULK COULDA BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO TWIST THOSE ROCKET SLED TRACKS! AND WHEN I GET AHOLD OF HIM....!
NO! IT ISN'T THE HULK, IT'S THE WRECKER! AND IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP THE CASE, HE'LL HARM RICK!

DR. BANNER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW DO YOU KNOW? WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE?
NONE! YOU'VE JUST GOT TO BELIEVE ME! HOW-- HOW CAN I CONVINCE YOU??!
WE CAN'T GIVE UP A TASK JUST ON YOUR SAY SO!

WAIT! I KNOW YOU HAVE MORE TO TELL US! WHY WON'T YOU SPEAK? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
IT'S NO USE! HOW CAN I EXPECT THEM TO BELIEVE ME, WHEN I CAN'T TELL THEM THE WHOLE TRUTH??
Y'KNOW SOMETHIN'? I DON'T TRUST THAT GUY!
ME NEITHER!


I DIDN'T DARE SHOW THEM THIS NOTE I FOUND NEAR WHERE RICK DISAPPEARED! BUT I JUST CAN'T IGNORE IT!
TO THE HULK: RICK JONES IS MY PRISONER! UNLESS YOU DRIVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR FROM THIS AREA, YOU WILL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN! the WRECKER

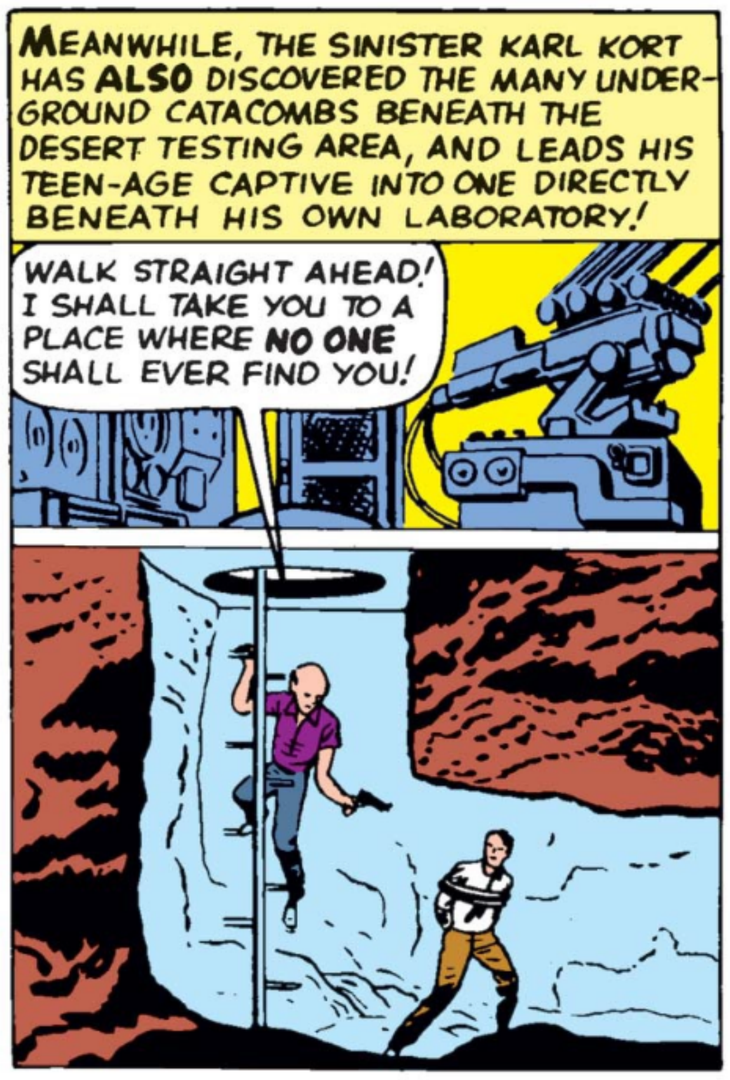

MINUTES LATER, IN HIS HIDDEN UNDERGROUND LAB KNOWN ONLY TO DR. BANNER AND RICK JONES...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I CAN MAKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR LEAVE THIS AREA!

DRAMATICALLY, THE SCIENTIST REMOVES HIS CLOTHES AND STANDS UPON A SENSITIVE, AWESOME DEVICE OF HIS OWN DESIGN...
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO AGAIN ACTIVATE THE ONLY MACHINE ON EARTH THAT CAN DUPLICATE THE INCREDIBLE GAMMA RAYS OF MY GAMMA BOMB!
BZZZT

FOR, ALTHOUGH BRUCE BANNER CANNOT COPE WITH THE WRECKER, OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR...

--THERE IS ONE WHO CAN--

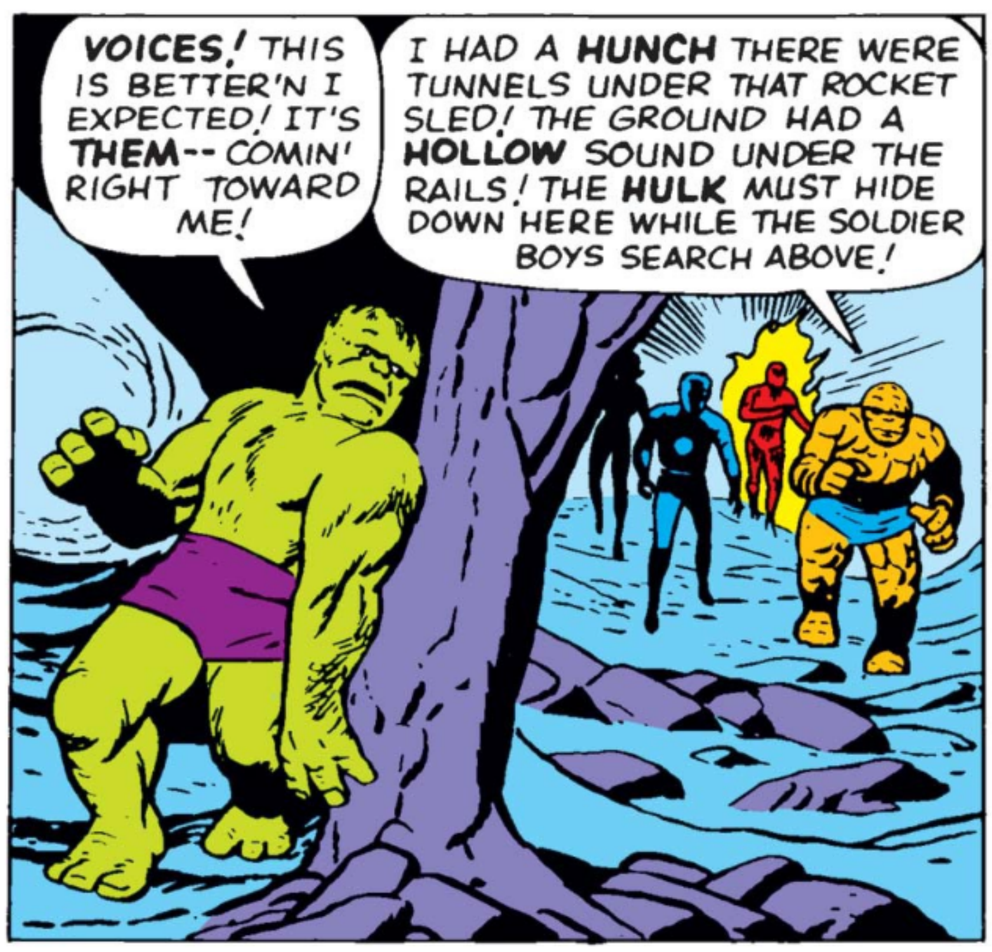
--AND IT IS TIME FOR THE HULK TO AGAIN WALK THE EARTH!


MEANWHILE, THE SINISTER KARL KORT HAS ALSO DISCOVERED THE MANY UNDERGROUND CATACOMBS BENEATH THE DESERT TESTING AREA, AND LEADS HIS TEEN-AGE CAPTIVE INTO ONE DIRECTLY BENEATH HIS OWN LABORATORY!
WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD! I SHALL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE WHERE NO ONE SHALL EVER FIND YOU!

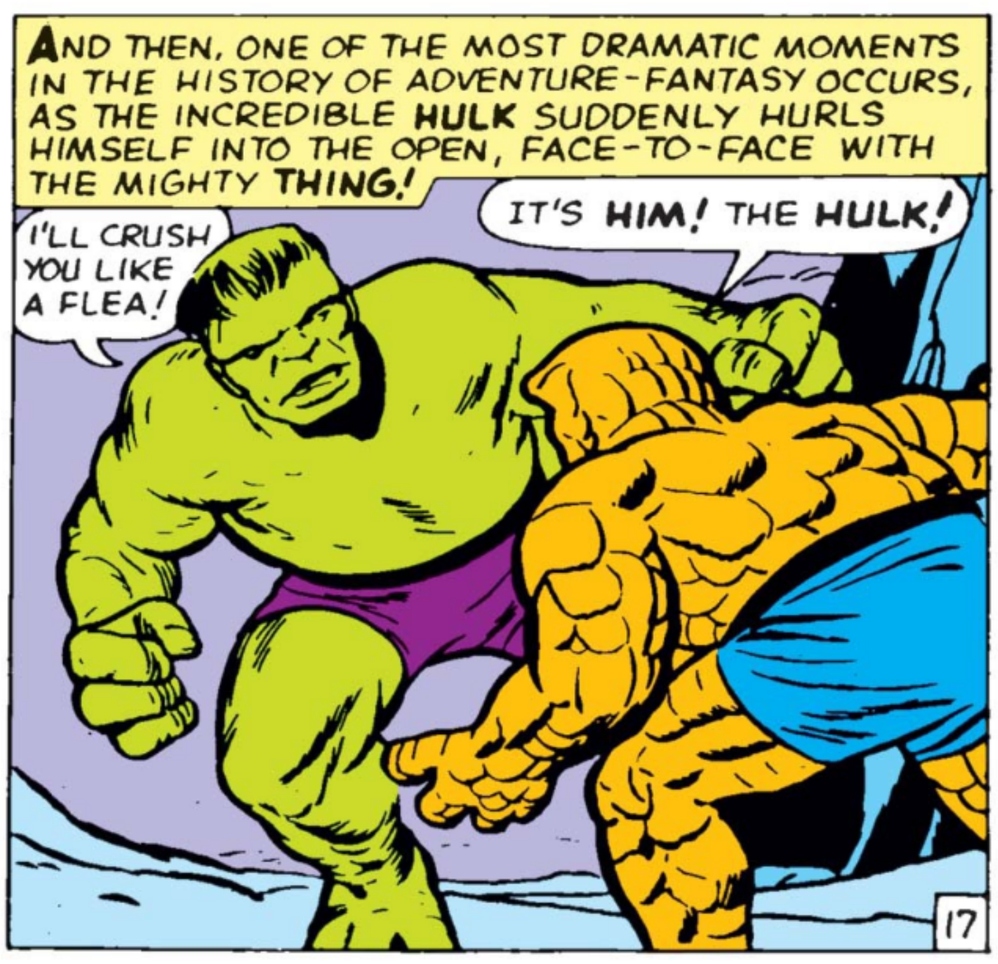
YOU AIN'T GONNA GET AWAY WITH THIS, DADDY-O! NO MATTER WHERE YOU TAKE ME, THE HULK WILL FIND ME!
I BEG TO DIFFER, MY ARROGANT FRIEND! I SHALL HANDLE THE HULK AS EASILY AS I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR THEMSELVES!

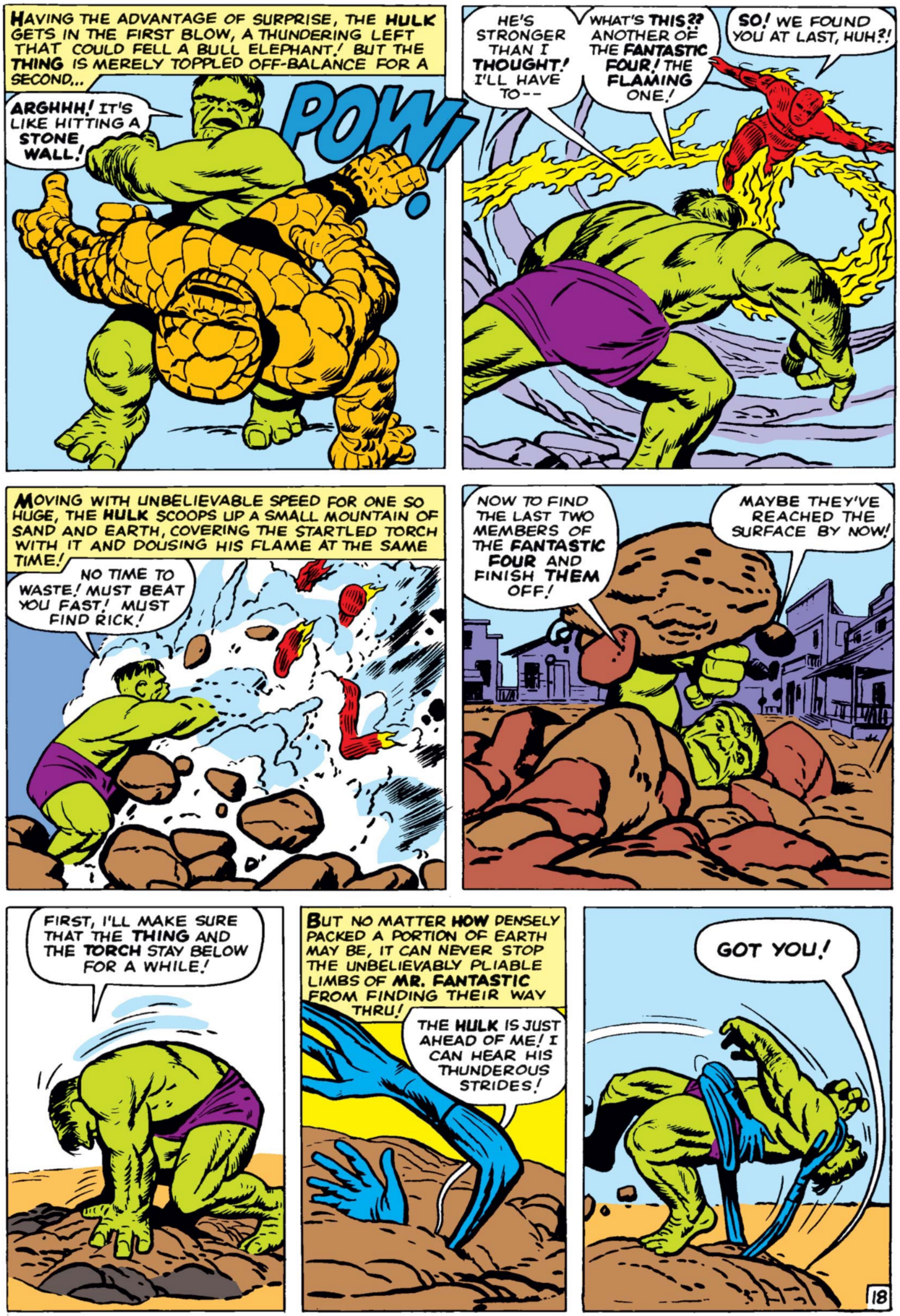
WE ARE NOW DIRECTLY BENEATH AN OLD, DESERTED WESTERN GHOST TOWN! THIS SHALL BE YOUR HOME FOR A LONG TIME --POSSIBLY FOREVER!
HOTEL
DON'T BET ON IT, GRAMPS!

BUT OTHERS ALSO KNOW OF THE DARK, RAMBLING TUNNELS--AND ONE OF THOSE OTHERS IS-- THE HULK!
I OUGHTTA BE UNDER PROJECT 34 PRETTY SOON, AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE SURE TO BE SOMEWHERE AROUND!
BUT THEY WON'T BE FOR LONG, NOT AFTER I GET THRU WITH 'EM!


VOICES! THIS IS BETTER'N I EXPECTED! IT'S THEM-- COMIN' RIGHT TOWARD ME!
I HAD A HUNCH THERE WERE TUNNELS UNDER THAT ROCKET SLED! THE GROUND HAD A HOLLOW SOUND UNDER THE RAILS! THE HULK MUST HIDE DOWN HERE WHILE THE SOLDIER BOYS SEARCH ABOVE!

I SURE HOPE WE FIND 'IM SOON! I'M JUST ITCHIN' TO TANGLE WITH THAT OVER-RATED CREEP!
I'LL FLY AHEAD AND SEE IF I CAN PICK UP HIS TRAIL!


AND THEN, ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ADVENTURE-FANTASY OCCURS, AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK SUDDENLY HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE OPEN, FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE MIGHTY THING!
IT'S HIM! THE HULK!
I'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A FLEA!


HAVING THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE, THE HULK GETS IN THE FIRST BLOW, A THUNDERING LEFT THAT COULD FELL A BULL ELEPHANT! BUT THE THING IS MERELY TOPPLED OFF-BALANCE FOR A SECOND...
ARGHHH! IT'S LIKE HITTING A STONE WALL!
POW!
HE'S STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT! I'LL HAVE TO--
WHAT'S THIS?? ANOTHER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR! THE FLAMING ONE!
SO! WE FOUND YOU AT LAST, HUH?!
MOVING WITH UNBELIEVABLE SPEED FOR ONE SO HUGE, THE HULK SCOOPS UP A SMALL MOUNTAIN OF SAND AND EARTH, COVERING THE STARTLED TORCH WITH IT AND DOUSING HIS FLAME AT THE SAME TIME!
NO TIME TO WASTE! MUST BEAT YOU FAST! MUST FIND RICK!
NOW TO FIND THE LAST TWO MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND FINISH THEM OFF!
MAYBE THEY'VE REACHED THE SURFACE BY NOW!
FIRST, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THE THING AND THE TORCH STAY BELOW FOR A WHILE!
BUT NO MATTER HOW DENSELY PACKED A PORTION OF EARTH MAY BE, IT CAN NEVER STOP THE UNBELIEVABLY PLIABLE LIMBS OF MR. FANTASTIC FROM FINDING THEIR WAY THRU!
THE HULK IS JUST AHEAD OF ME! I CAN HEAR HIS THUNDEROUS STRIDES!
GOT YOU!
18

BUT EVEN **MR. FANTASTIC** IS NO MATCH FOR THE **HULK'S** PONDEROUS STRENGTH, AS THE ENRAGED CREATURE BREAKS LOOSE OF REED'S TWISTING-VINE GRIP AND GOES ON A SEEMINGLY MAD RAMPAGE!

NICE DIGGIN, **THING**! I KNEW THE **HULK** COULDN'T KEEP **YOU** DOWN FOR LONG!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GOING TO HURL THAT WOODEN FRAME HOUSE AT US!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **HIM**, KID! **THIS** TIME HE AIN'T TAKIN' ME BY **SURPRISE**!

BARKER HOUSE

THEY'VE ALL GOTTEN FREE! BUT I'LL STOP 'EM WITH **THIS**!

GUESS AGAIN, BUSTER! THOSE CORNY STUNTS DON'T IMPRESS THE **THING**!

WHAM!

CAN'T SAVE RICK UNLESS I GET RID OF THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**!

BUT THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL TO BEAT ALL AT ONCE! GOT TO **SEPARATE** 'EM!

I'LL LEAP INTO THE AIR AND FLATTEN THE **THING** FIRST, IN A POWER DIVE!

NO YOU DON'T, BROTHER! **THIS** TIME I'VE **GOT** YOU!

YEAH? WELL, WATCH **THIS**--

LIKE A LIVING TORNADO, THE **HULK** SPINS HIMSELF AROUND, CAUSING **MR. FANTASTIC** TO UNWIND HIS BODY BEFORE THE IRRESISTIBLE POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE CREATURE!

BUT, EVEN AS THEY LAND, A FLAMING, FLASHING, FURIOUS FIGURE HURTLES TOWARDS HIS MIGHTY FOE!

EVEN **YOU** CAN'T STOP ME **NOW**, HULK!

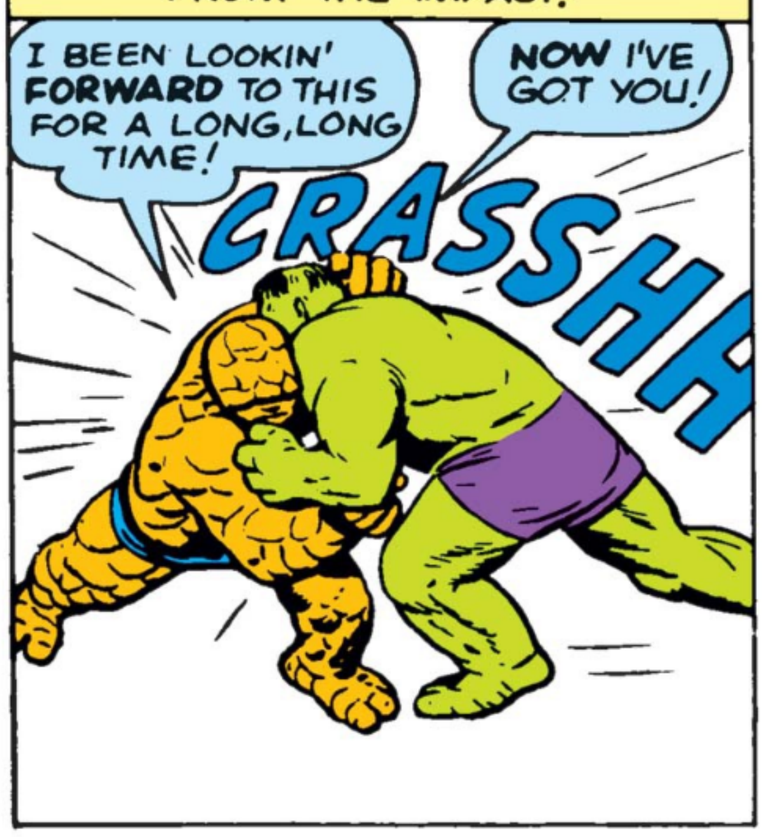
BUT THE HULK HAS ONE MORE POWER HE CAN USE--ONE THAT NEVER FAILS TO STOP THOSE WHO DO NOT EXPECT IT!
BRACE YOURSELF FOR A LITTLE SURPRISE, YOU FLAMING BRAT!

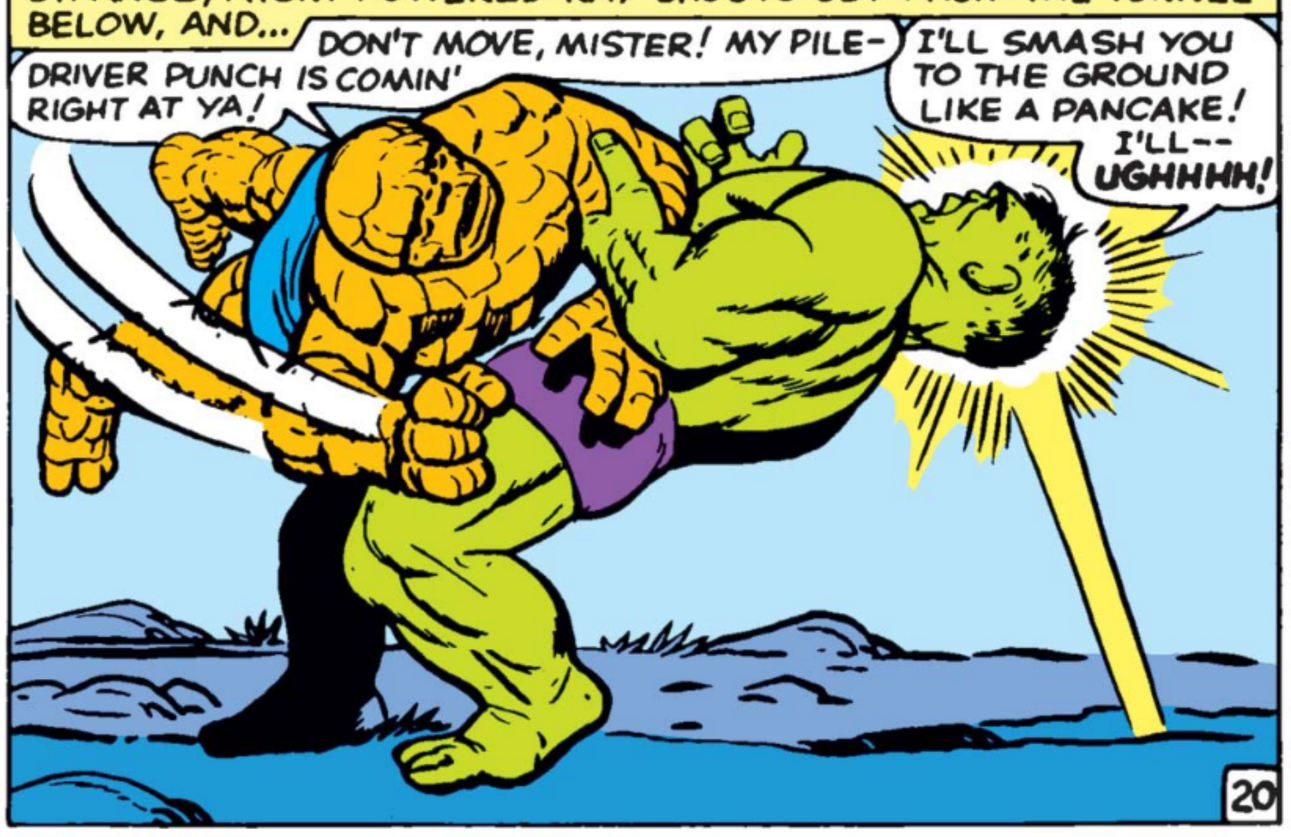
SO MIGHTY ARE HIS ARMS, THAT WHEN HE CLAPS HIS HANDS TOGETHER WITH FULL FORCE, IT HAS THE EFFECT OF A SUPERSONIC BOOM SHOCK WAVE!
HERE'S A LITTLE LULLABY FROM ME TO YOU!
WHOOOM

HA! THAT'LL KEEP 'EM OUTTA ACTION FOR A WHILE!
BUT WHERE'S THE FOURTH ONE? WHERE'S THE THING?

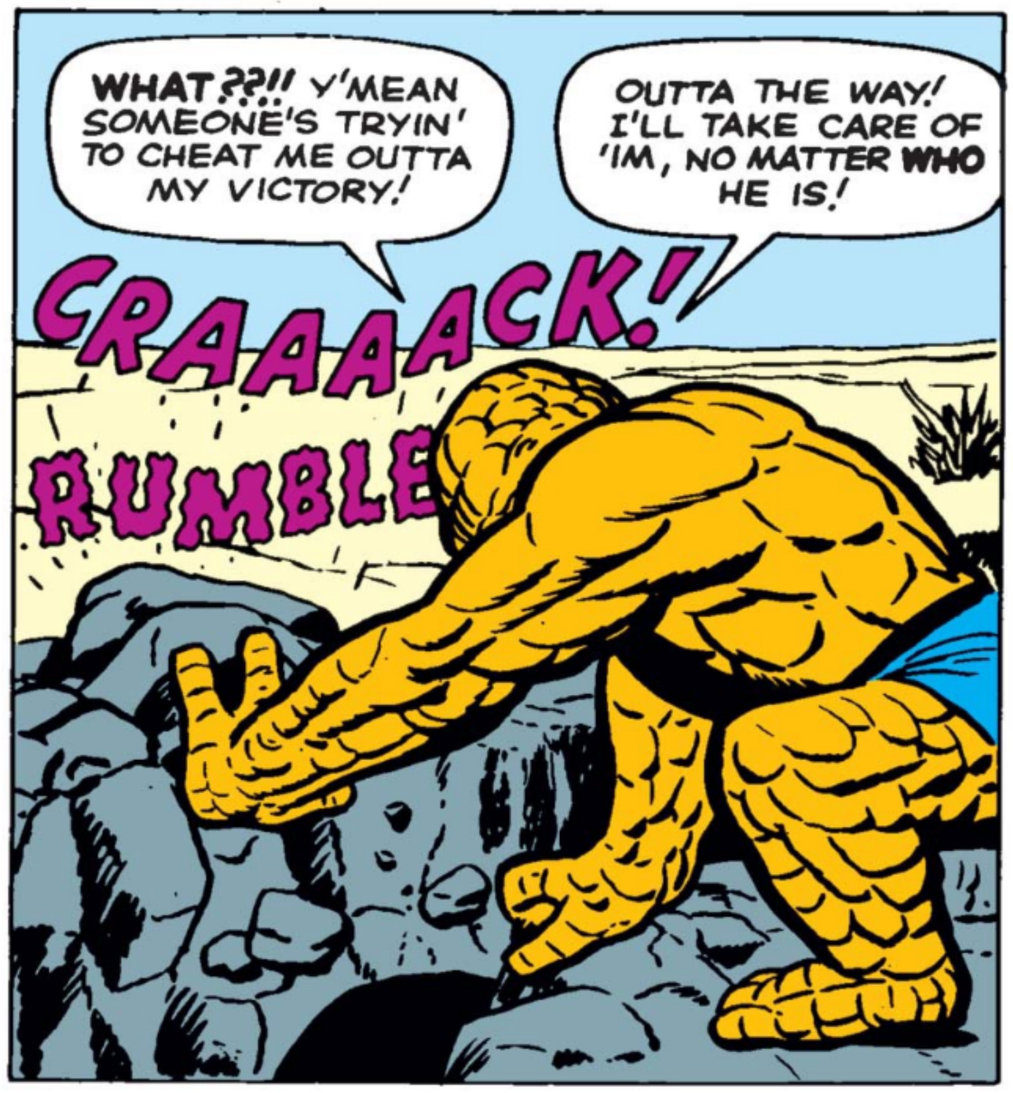
RIGHT HERE, GRUESOME! THERE AIN'T A SOUND YOU CAN LISTEN TO THAT I CAN'T HANDLE ALSO!

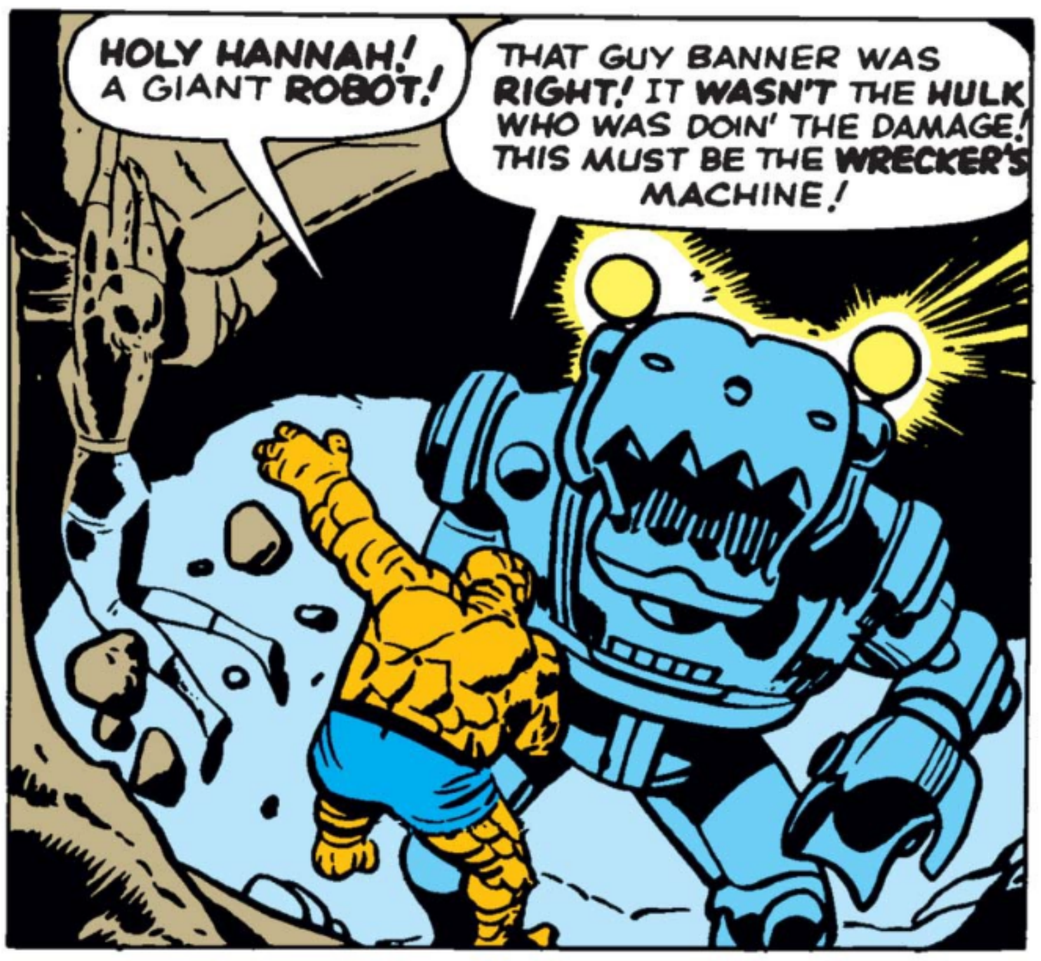
WELL, WELL! SO THE BIG BAD HULK IS THROWIN' THINGS, HUH? THAT AIN'T GONNA HELP YOU NOW!
ANYONE CAN FIGHT WITH HIS MOUTH! BUT WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOU...

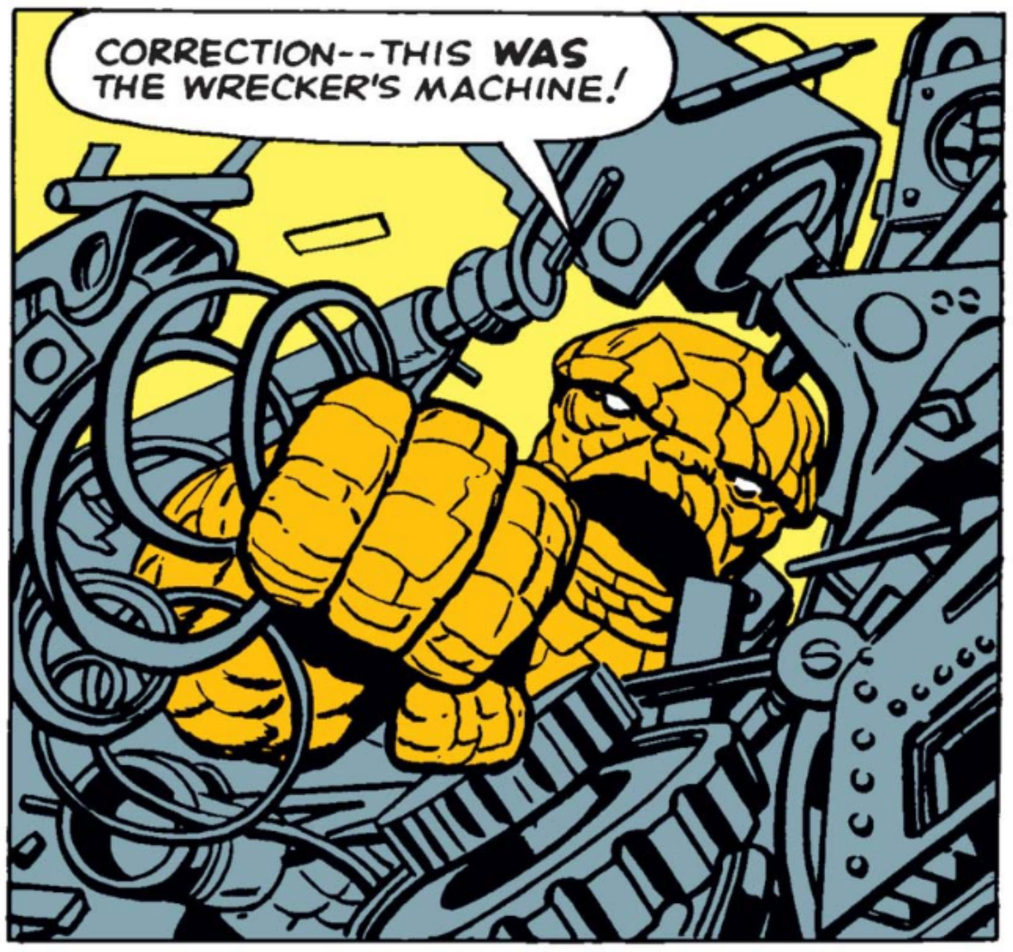

AND SO THE TWO HUMAN BEHEMOTHS MEET HEAD-ON, AS THE VERY EARTH BENEATH THEIR FEET TREMBLES FROM THE IMPACT!
I BEEN LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THIS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
CRASSHH

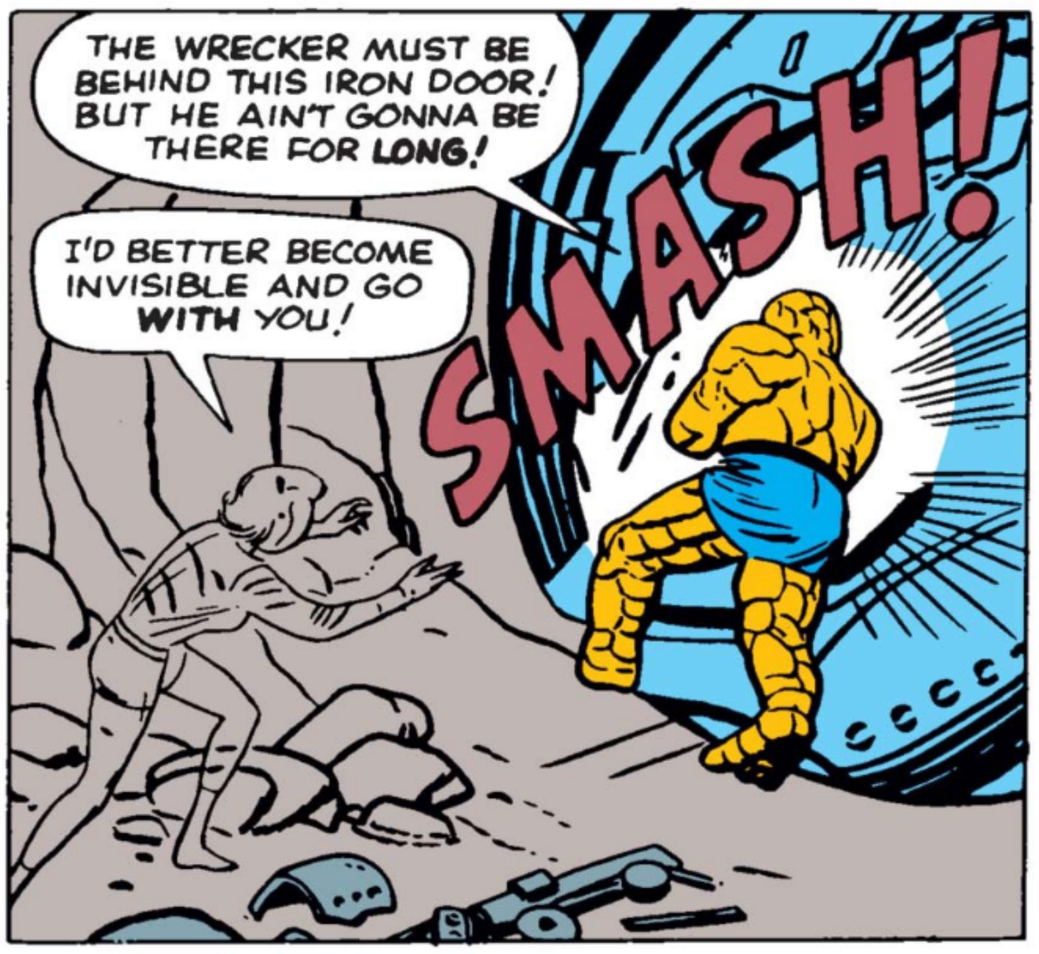

SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE LARGER HULK LIFTS THE RAGING THING OFF HIS FEET, AS THE MIND-STAGGERING BATTLE REACHES ITS FINAL CLIMAX! BUT THEN--AT THAT INSTANT--A STRANGE, ATOM-POWERED RAY SHOOTS OUT FROM THE TUNNEL BELOW, AND...
DON'T MOVE, MISTER! MY PILE-DRIVER PUNCH IS COMIN' RIGHT AT YA!
I'LL SMASH YOU TO THE GROUND LIKE A PANCAKE! I'LL-- UGHHHH!

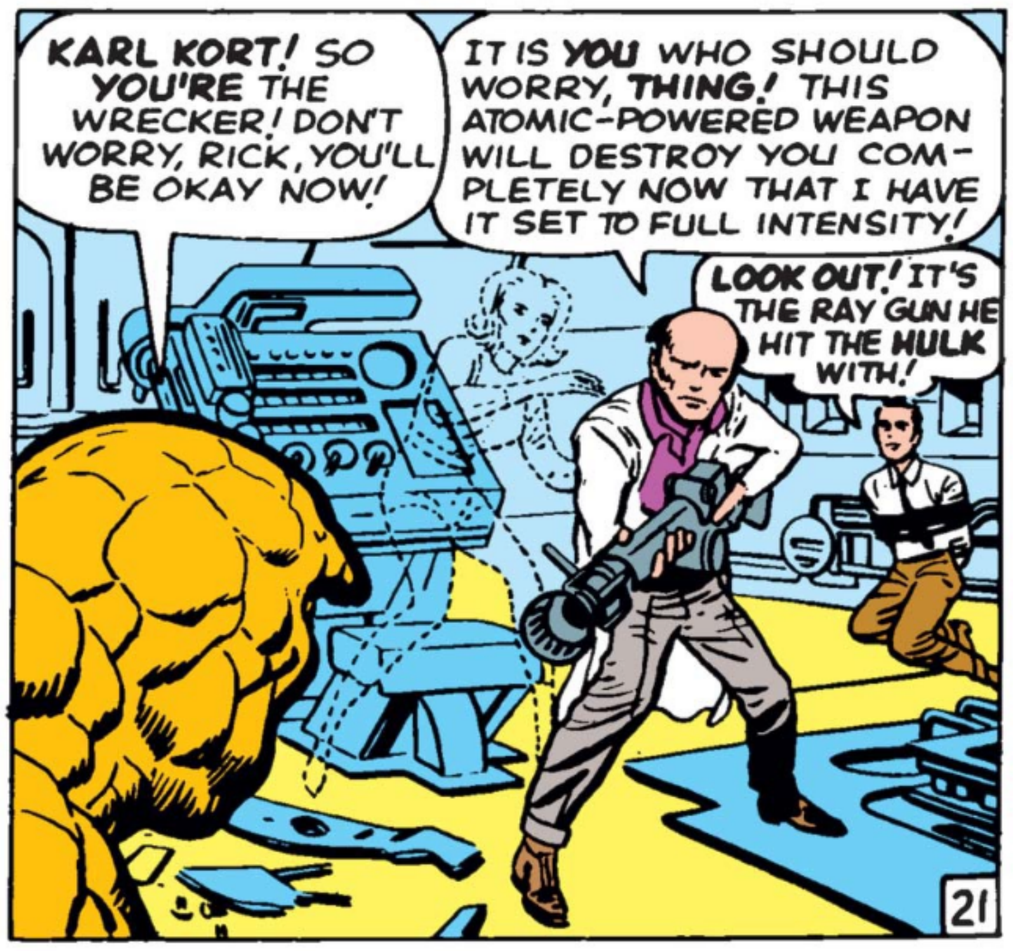
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED?? I DIDN'T EVEN LAND MY LAST PUNCH! I MUST BE BETTER'N I THOUGHT I WAS!
BEN, IT WAS SOME SORT OF RAY--FROM UNDER THE GROUND! I SAW IT STRIKE THE HULK!

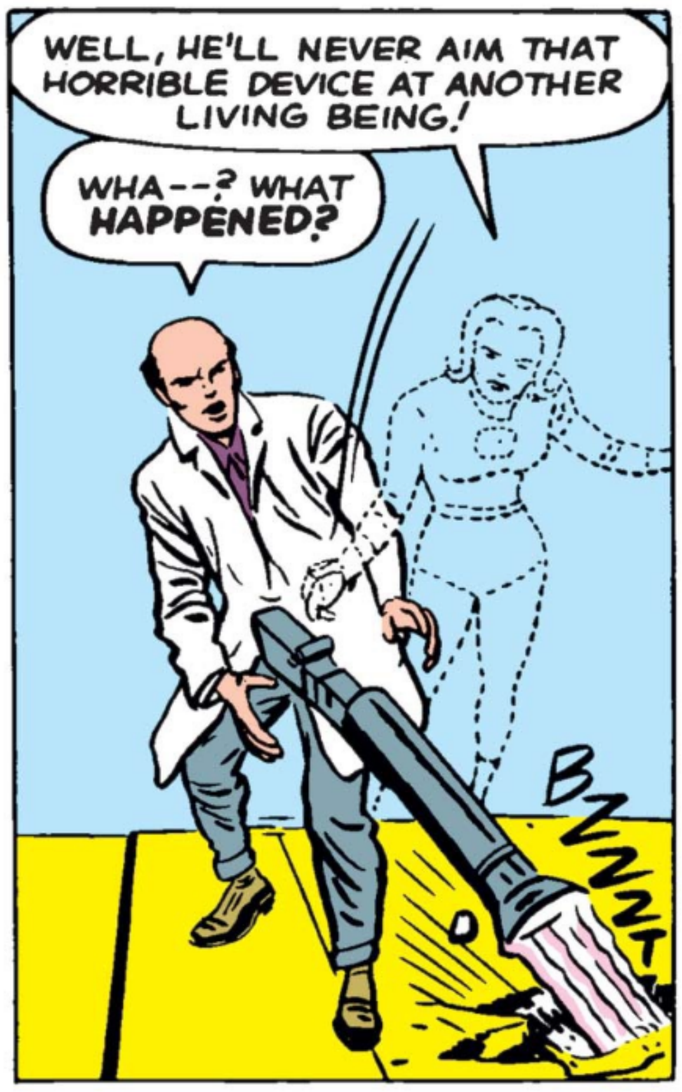

WHAT??!! Y'MEAN SOMEONE'S TRYIN' TO CHEAT ME OUTTA MY VICTORY!
OUTTA THE WAY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF 'IM, NO MATTER WHO HE IS!
CRAAAACK!
RUMBLE


HOLY HANNAH! A GIANT ROBOT!
THAT GUY BANNER WAS RIGHT! IT WASN'T THE HULK WHO WAS DOIN' THE DAMAGE! THIS MUST BE THE WRECKER'S MACHINE!


CORRECTION--THIS WAS THE WRECKER'S MACHINE!

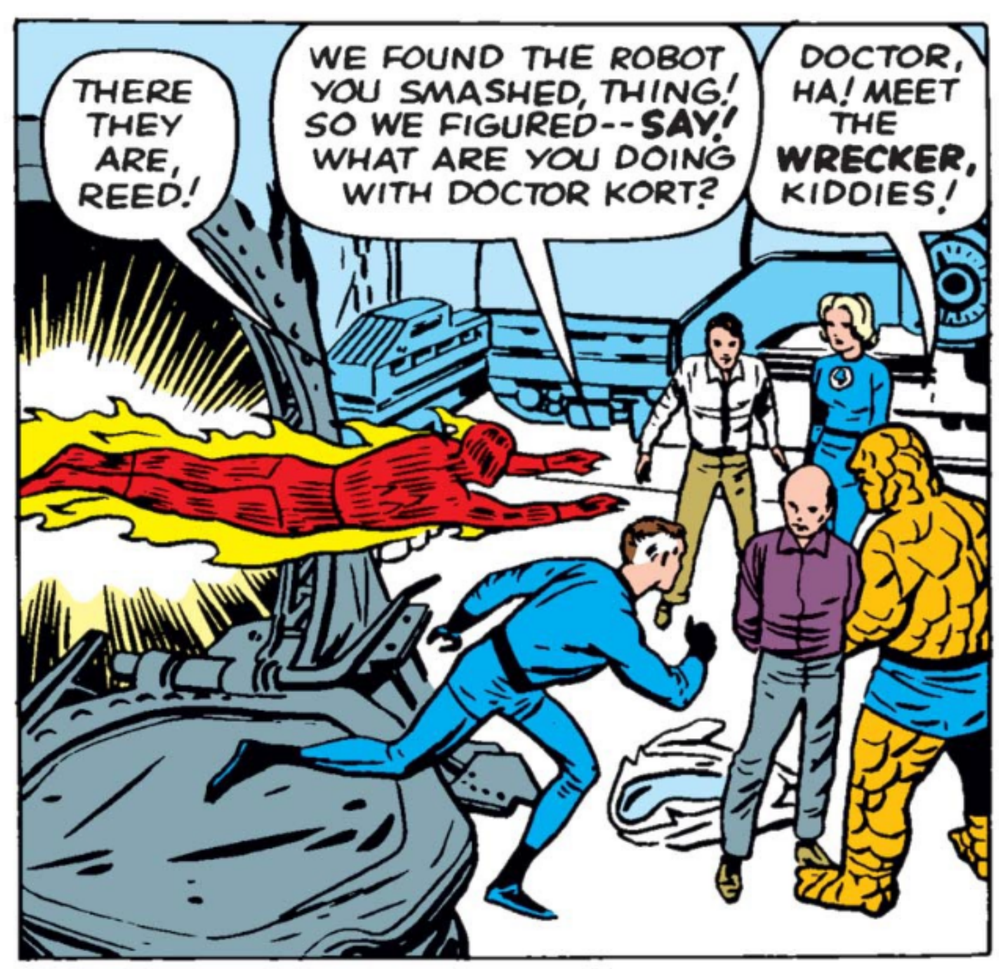

THE WRECKER MUST BE BEHIND THIS IRON DOOR! BUT HE AIN'T GONNA BE THERE FOR LONG!
I'D BETTER BECOME INVISIBLE AND GO WITH YOU!
SMASH!


KARL KORT! SO YOU'RE THE WRECKER! DON'T WORRY, RICK, YOU'LL BE OKAY NOW!
IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD WORRY, THING! THIS ATOMIC-POWERED WEAPON WILL DESTROY YOU COMPLETELY NOW THAT I HAVE IT SET TO FULL INTENSITY!
LOOK OUT! IT'S THE RAY GUN HE HIT THE HULK WITH!

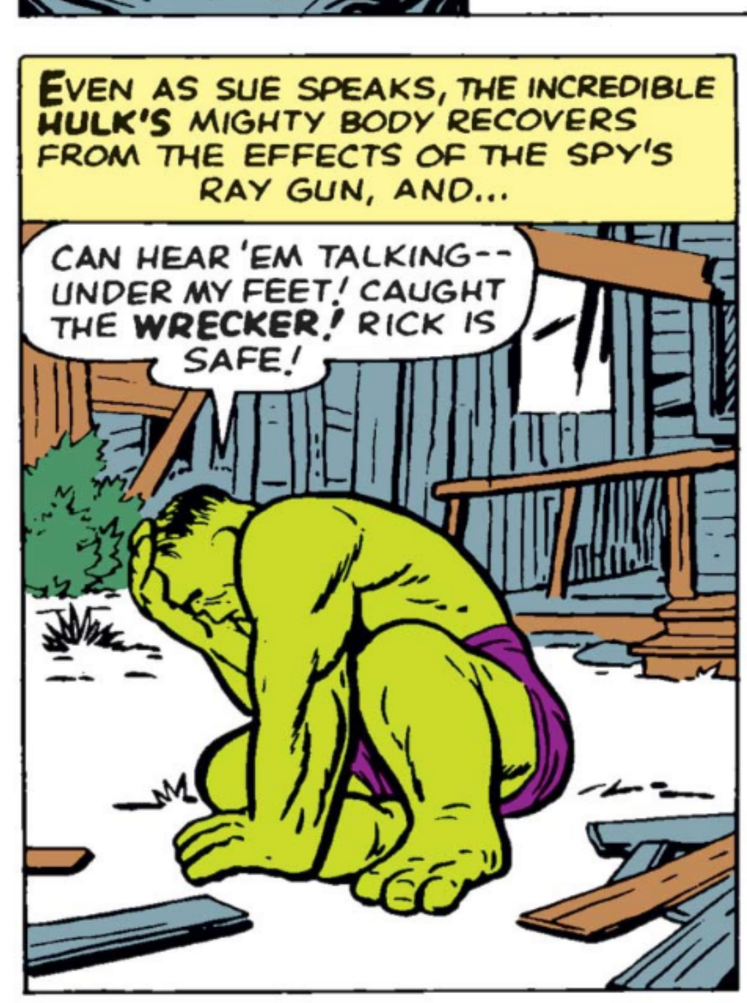

WELL, HE'LL NEVER AIM THAT HORRIBLE DEVICE AT ANOTHER LIVING BEING!
WHA--? WHAT HAPPENED?
BZZZZT

BUSTER, WHAT HAPPENED AIN'T NOTHIN' TO WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO YOU!
DON'T HURT HIM, BEN! THE GENERAL WILL WANT HIM FOR QUESTIONING!

ROTTEN, LOW-DOWN SPY! I'D LIKE JUST TWO MINUTES ALONE WITH 'IM!
Y'KNOW SOMETHIN', THING? YOU'RE A PRETTY RIGHT GUY AFTER ALL!

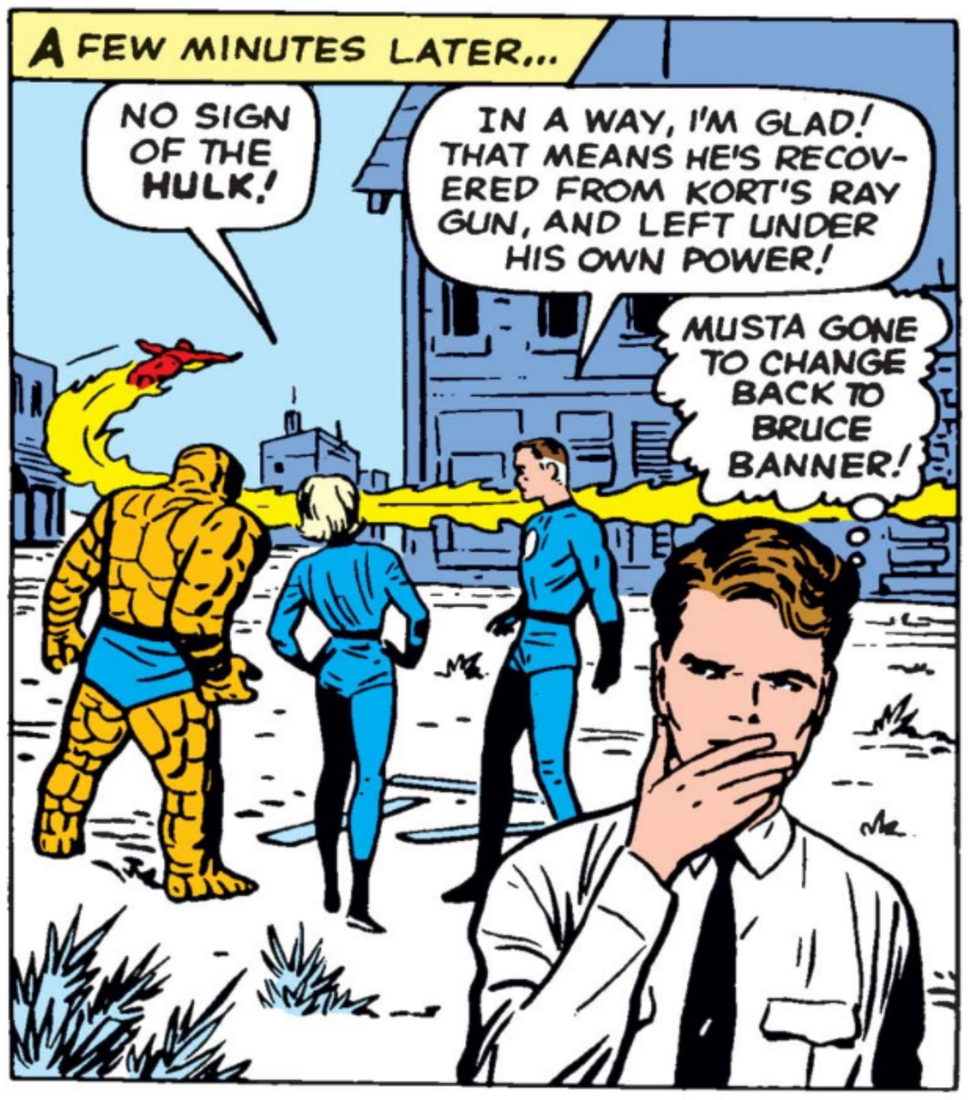

THERE THEY ARE, REED!
WE FOUND THE ROBOT YOU SMASHED, THING! SO WE FIGURED--SAY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH DOCTOR KORT?
DOCTOR, HA! MEET THE WRECKER, KIDDIES!

SO! YOU WERE THE ONE SABOTAGING BRUCE BANNER'S CITY DEFENSE RAY! I SUPPOSE IT WAS EASY FOR YOU TO THROW THE BLAME ON THE HULK, BY USING THAT MONSTROUS ROBOT OF YOURS!
SURE! EVERYONE FIGGERED NOBODY BUT THE HULK COULD DO THAT MUCH DAMAGE! 'CEPTIN' ME, OF COURSE!
BUT-- WHERE IS THE HULK?

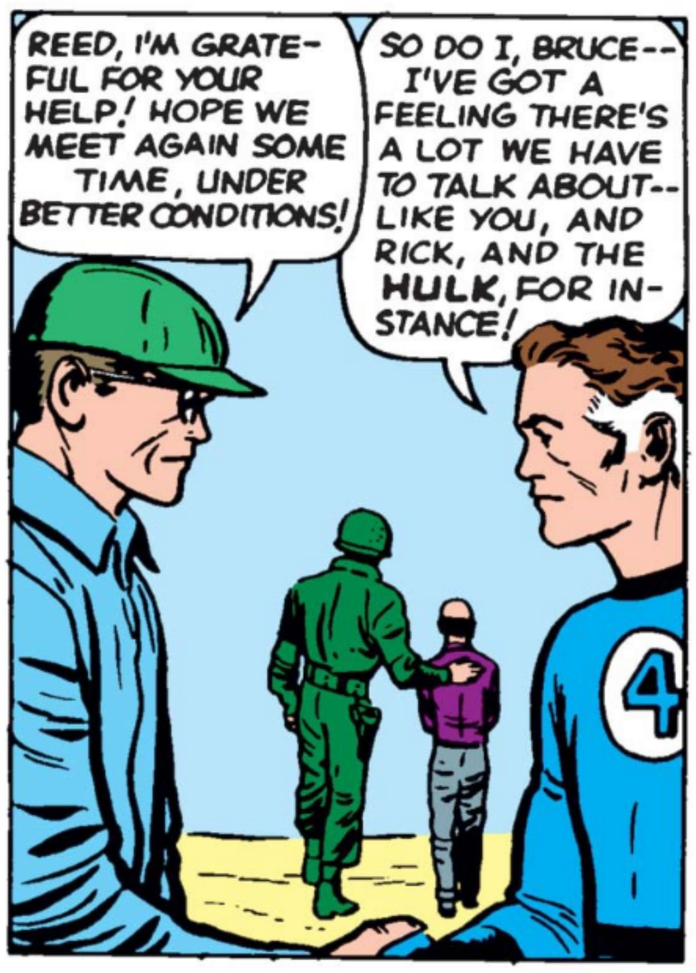

EVEN AS SUE SPEAKS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK'S MIGHTY BODY RECOVERS FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE SPY'S RAY GUN, AND...
CAN HEAR 'EM TALKING-- UNDER MY FEET! CAUGHT THE WRECKER! RICK IS SAFE!

WITH ONE GIGANTIC LEAP, THE MIGHTIEST LEGS ON EARTH SEND THE HULK SOARING UPWARD...
STILL WEAK FROM RAY-- NO REASON TO HANG AROUND-- GOTTA CHANGE BACK TO BRUCE BANNER--

DON'T WANT THING TO FIND ME TILL I GET MY FULL STRENGTH BACK! WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST 'IM NOW!

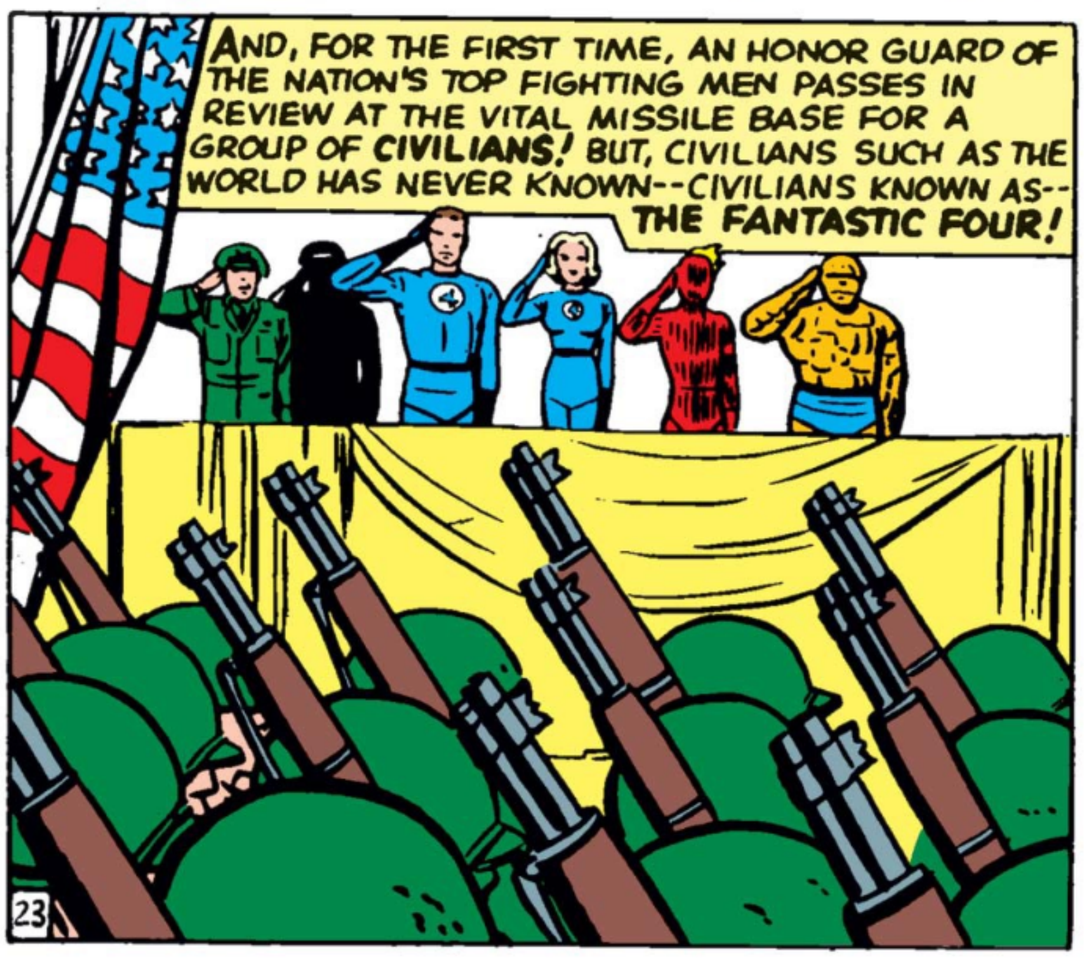

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
NO SIGN OF THE HULK!
IN A WAY, I'M GLAD! THAT MEANS HE'S RECOVERED FROM KORT'S RAY GUN, AND LEFT UNDER HIS OWN POWER!
MUSTA GONE TO CHANGE BACK TO BRUCE BANNER!

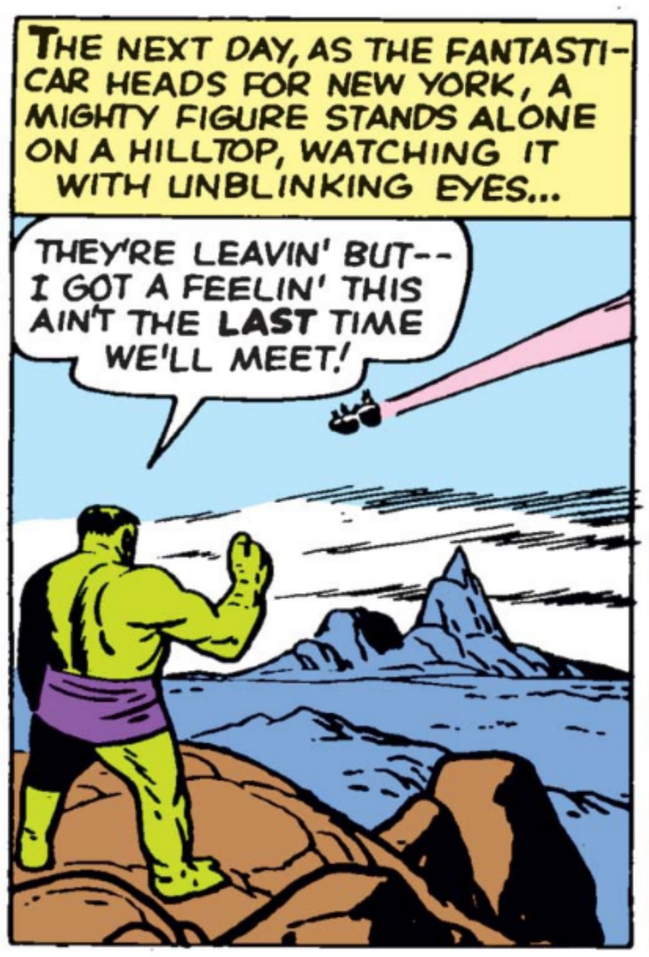
AND, BEFORE VERY LONG...
RICK! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
HI, BRUCE! SURE, I'M IN THE PINK!
YES, GENERAL! AND DR. BANNER WAS RIGHT! IT WAS KARL KORT --NOT THE HULK!
WELL, I SEE YOU'VE FOUND OUR SABOTEUR, EH?
THEN WHAT THE HECK WAS I FIGHTIN' THE HULK FOR?


REED, I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP! HOPE WE MEET AGAIN SOME TIME, UNDER BETTER CONDITIONS!
SO DO I, BRUCE-- I'VE GOT A FEELING THERE'S A LOT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT-- LIKE YOU, AND RICK, AND THE HULK, FOR INSTANCE!

THINK HE SUSPECTS, DOC?
HARD TO TELL WITH A BRAIN LIKE REED RICHARDS'! I'M KINDA GLAD HE'S ON OUR SIDE!

WELL, GUESS WE'LL BE SHOVIN' OFF!
NOT JUST YET, IF YOU PLEASE! THERE IS A LITTLE CEREMONY I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND, IN YOUR HONOR!


AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN HONOR GUARD OF THE NATION'S TOP FIGHTING MEN PASSES IN REVIEW AT THE VITAL MISSILE BASE FOR A GROUP OF CIVILIANS! BUT, CIVILIANS SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN--CIVILIANS KNOWN AS-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR!


THE NEXT DAY, AS THE FANTASTICAR HEADS FOR NEW YORK, A MIGHTY FIGURE STANDS ALONE ON A HILLTOP, WATCHING IT WITH UNBLINKING EYES...
THEY'RE LEAVIN' BUT-- I GOT A FEELIN' THIS AIN'T THE LAST TIME WE'LL MEET!

WILL THE HULK AGAIN MEET THE FANTASTIC FOUR?? ONLY TIME WILL TELL! BUT-- ONE THING IS CERTAIN-- NEXT ISSUE THE FABULOUS FOURSOME MEET THE RED GHOST, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL SUPER-VILLAINS OF ALL! RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW!
THE END